



35

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FIND THAT PLACE
UP-TO-THE-MINUTE
DEGREE VACANCIES
PAGES 33, 34

**PLUS: TOP STATE
SCHOOLS, PAGE 7**

**DIARY OF A
DUCHESS**
Thoughts
from the
Tuscan hills
PAGE 5

FINE LEGS
Skirts or
trousers—
the great women's
cricket debate
PAGE 40

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EUROPE**

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Register of sex offences 'flawed'

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

The Government was given a warning last night that the national sex offenders register was fatally flawed after it emerged that probation officers are banned from giving addresses of paedophiles and sex attackers under their supervision to the police.

Instead it will be up to such offenders to contact the police to have their names put on the register before the middle of next month. Those who have received community punishments or are under supervision after release from jail are expected to give their addresses to their local police station.

Last night probation officers said that getting the names of sex offenders currently under supervision would be a "shambles". Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said that many would not contact the police in spite of the risk of a £5,000 fine for failing to register.

The major flaw in the way this is being done is that we are dealing with a group of people whom everybody agrees are very deviant," he said. "It is a big assumption to think these people will walk to the police station or write a letter to the local chief of police by the middle of next month providing officers with their names and addresses."

Under guidance sent to chief probation officers and the secretaries of all 52 probation committees in England and Wales, the Home Office has outlined the complex procedures that must take place in advising sex offenders under supervision.

Within the next two weeks probation officers will be expected to contact every one of the estimated 4,500 sex offenders under their supervision. Each must be handed a notice informing them of the need to

register their name and address with the local police before September 14 or risk a £5,000 fine and/or six months in jail.

But the guidance warns

probation staff that they must

take great care when advising an offender whether he or she is required to register. "In cases where there is any doubt, the offender should be advised to seek independent legal advice," the guidance states.

Convicted sex offenders under supervision in the community or released on licence from jail will be expected to give police their name and all other names they have ever used, home address and a date of birth.

Under the Sex Offenders Act a register is to be set up to allow police to track serious sex offenders and paedophiles across the country. The register, which will be held on the Police National Computer, will hold the names and addresses of criminals convicted of a range of sex offences.

Mr Fletcher accused the Government of attempting to set up the register too quickly. He said it would be extremely difficult to contact all sex offenders currently on supervision.

"Probation staff will do their best but given the time of year and the short notice to disseminate the information, it is highly unlikely that all sex offenders under supervision in the community will be registered by September 14."

A Home Office spokeswoman confirmed that probation staff would not be allowed to assist police in compiling the register by handing over the names and addresses of sex offenders currently under supervision.

The act requires the offender to notify the police, not the probation service," they said.

Offender is tagged

A CONVICTED paedophile who has warned that he will attack another youngster last night became the first child sex offender to be electronically tagged.

Graham Seddon, 43, agreed to be voluntarily tagged in an attempt to provide protection for the public even though he

is not on bail or serving a sentence.

Seddon, who served six years of a nine-year sentence for the rape and sexual assault of a nine-year-old girl, was arrested this year on Merseyside with a bag of sweets and a colouring book. He said he was looking for a child for sex and was held under the Mental Health Act. But because his condition is said to be untreatable, he cannot be detained.

Greater Manchester probation service has persuaded him to be tagged even though he has not committed any crime since being released from jail earlier this year.



Kelly Fisher, the model who has filed a suit claiming that she and Dodi Fayed were to be married last weekend

Dodi 'promised to marry me'

By EMMA WILKINS AND
GILES WHITBELL

A CALIFORNIAN model last night claimed that Dodi Fayed had broken his promise to marry her. They had been due to wed in Los Angeles last weekend, she said.

The model, Kelly Fisher, 31, is due to launch a lawsuit in Los Angeles today in a move which could jeopardise Mr Fayed's relationship with Diana, Princess of Wales.

The suit claims that Mr Fayed was engaged to Ms Fisher when he was embracing the Princess on his father's £15 million yacht in the Mediterranean.

Mr Fayed, 41, the son of Mohammed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, is "relaxed" about the prospect of a lawsuit, according to a spokesman for the family.

"We are content to leave it to the good sense of the British and American people to judge this development for what it is," he said. "If a writ is issued, Mr Fayed's lawyers in Los Angeles will respond in the appropriate way."

In a statement issued by her lawyers last night, Ms Fisher said she had been was on Mr Fayed's yacht, the *Jonikal*, in St Tropez just a few weeks before the Princess. The couple met in Paris in summer last year and in November Mr Fayed asked her parents for permission to marry her, Ms Fisher claimed.

During their engagement, they stayed at luxury hotels and enjoyed several trips on the *Jonikal*. She learnt that her



I've got a confession to make — I'm engaged to somebody else

engagement was off when she saw photographs of him embracing the Princess in a newspaper.

"Ms Fisher loved, trusted and believed in Mr Fayed. In return he took her love and gave her every indication that they were going to get married," the suit said. "In the end he betrayed her and has humiliated her in the eyes of her friends and family."

Ms Fisher is said to be the exclusive seamstress of Malibu. She told a friend last night, "I can't believe he has done this to me. He has humiliated me."

Mr Fayed, 41, a divorced Hollywood film producer, was due to leave London for Los Angeles yesterday but failed to turn up for a British Airways flight, on which he was booked.

Ms Fisher's lawyer is Gloria Allred, who hosts a popular

radio talk show and numbers among her clients Denise Brown, the sister of O.J. Simpson's murdered wife, Nicole, and the British heiress, Sita White.

This week Ms Allred won a court victory for Ms White when a Los Angeles judge declared Imran Khan, the former Pakistan cricketer, the legal father of her four-year-old daughter.

It will not be the first time that Ms Allred has taken on the Harrods empire. She was hired in May to represent Eileen Kadden, a 16-stone businesswoman from Los Angeles who claimed she was thrown out of the store for being "too fat".

The judgment against Mr Khan was made by default when the former cricketer, who is now married to Jemima Goldsmith, refused to take a blood test after denying the

claim. A similar suit has now been filed in London.

The claim about Mr Fayed's relationship with Ms Fisher came as further details emerged about the role played by Mohammed Al Fayed in the development of his son's friendship with the Princess.

According to a gossip columnist, Mr Fayed suggested to the Princess several months ago that she should consider marriage to his eldest son, Taki Theodoropoulos, writing in *The Spectator* magazine, said the Princess had told him about the suggestion "matter of fact" when they lunched at Kensington Palace in January.

Mr Theodoropoulos said he had telephoned the Princess earlier this week to ask if she would be announcing her engagement to Mr Fayed. The answer was, apparently, "No".

He wrote: "It took her a long time to get out of a loveless marriage and she's not about to jump into another. Diana has been alone too long and Dodi's family has taken her in, something that Windsor failed to do. But it doesn't mean they'll be walking down the aisle come September."

A spokesman for Mr Fayed said yesterday that the marriage suggestion was probably a joke.

"He does laugh and joke with the Princess. He certainly makes her laugh. It's quite possible he was having a light-hearted conversation with her."

Letters, page 17

Boys triumph in record A-level passes

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

School, in Gwent, was the top

BOYS took the top honours yesterday as the record A-level pass rate produced a clutch of outstanding results and a headache for university admissions tutors.

The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, recorded the best scores of any state school. The 108 boys averaged almost two A grades and one C each, pipping the King Edward VI College, in Shrewsbury, to the top of the first A-level league table.

Half of the top ten places were filled by boys' grammar schools, with Chelmsford County High School the top girls' school. Crosseschools

things I enjoy like playing music and sport."

A series of delighted teenagers celebrated six A grades. They included Catalin Ursu, a Romanian scholar who came to Culford School, near Bury St Edmunds, two years ago.

The combination of high pass rates and anticipation of a scramble for higher education places in advance of next year's introduction of fees made it a hectic day for university admissions departments.

I am pleased but I did get what I expected. I don't do anything by half measures. My studies didn't stop me doing the



Heading for Oxford: Philip Croker with seven A-grades

Cult fight over Cornish beach

Members of a German religious cult are in conflict with the National Trust over a remote Cornish spot which they believe is the perfect and only place to worship God.

The trouble is that Looe Bar, a National Trust-owned beauty spot between Helston and Penzance, is also the only known breeding site of the a rare moth

Page 3

Post for Clarke

Kenneth Clarke has won his first City directorship after leaving office. He will join the board of Foreign & Colonial, where he will be paid £18,000 a year for approximately 12 days a year

Page 21

TALK DIRTY WITH A FRIEND IN BATH.

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Labour's heavyweight clash

Hattersley says Mandelson speech on setting up unit to tackle social inequality is foolish. Jill Sherman reports



Hattersley: call for less public relations

ROY HATTERSLEY and Peter Mandelson clashed head on yesterday over how to tackle Britain's "underclass". Their altercation followed the Government's announcement of a new Whitehall taskforce to reduce social inequality.

Mr Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, suggested Mr Hattersley was no longer a member of the Labour Party after the former deputy leader criticised a speech by Mr Mandelson as "a statement full of generalities."

Mr Hattersley also accused Mr Mandelson of failing to come up with any policies and criticised him for dismissing the idea of redistributing wealth as the main method of tackling poverty. "It's the speech rather foolishly in my view talks of people who regard taking money from the rich and giving it to the poor as people who have an exclusive and limited view of

equality," Mr Hattersley said on *The World at One* on BBC Radio 4. The Government should display "less public relations and more philosophy", he said as he called for higher taxation and increased benefits.

Mr Mandelson, who gave details of the new unit in the Fabian Society's summer lecture yesterday, said he did not want to be rude to Mr Hattersley, but then made what appeared to be an embarrassing gaffe. "He is a very respected and senior and venerable member of the party... if he is still a member of the Labour Party."

Questioned on this point, he said Mr Hattersley may not have paid his subscription or the collector may not have knocked on his door. "Please don't read anything significant into that." Later, Mr Mandelson's office conceded that Mr Hattersley was still a party member and gave no explana-

tion for why this had been doubted. Last month Mr Hattersley wrote a critical article claiming the Labour had abandoned its principle of tackling inequality.

The spat threatened to overshadow the launch of the new unit, which will be set up next month and chaired by the Prime Minister. The unit, the Six Taskforce or review group set up since the general election, will be made up of Whitehall officials, representatives from local authorities and voluntary organisations and business. It will be headed up by Robin Young, a senior deputy secretary in the Cabinet office, although Tony Blair will oversee the working party and chair the meetings occasionally.

Delivering the lecture, Mr Mandelson said that the emerging underclass was the biggest single challenge facing the Blair administra-

tion, and combating it would be the "acid test" of the Government's effectiveness. The establishment of the unit was the most important government innovation since the general election. "It will harness the full power of government to take on the greatest social crisis of our times."

Building on a speech on welfare by Mr Blair in June he continued: "One challenge above all stands out before we can deserve another historic victory, tackling the scourge and waste of social exclusion."

Although leftwingers welcomed Labour's decision to look at social inequality, many were sceptical that it would come up with affordable answers. Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West, said that the unit should include those with lifelong experience of dealing with poverty. Higher taxation and higher benefits were still the key.

MERCURY/THOMAS

Pair who beat bank claim final triumph

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A COUPLE who sued Lloyds Bank over a failed property venture yesterday claimed a final victory in their seven-year legal battle. Julia Verity and Richard Spindler made legal history in 1995 when a High Court judge ruled that Lloyds Bank was negligent for its bad business advice and awarded them £77,000 damages.

But six months later the pair faced bankruptcy when the same judge ordered them to pay back over £100,000 in interest on the loan they had taken out after the bank's advice.

Yesterday, after months of discussions with Lloyds, the couple, from Henley-on-Thames, said they had reached a settlement which means they no longer owe any money and have had the mortgage on Mrs Verity's £130,000 house paid off.

At home yesterday, Mrs Verity, 57, said they felt they could finally lay the ghost to rest. "It is nine years since the negligent advice and our lives have been totally disrupted by being in such insurmountable debt as a result."

In 1996, the couple went to Lloyds Bank in Beaconsfield to consult about buying a property and renovating it to make an estimated £5,000 profit. They had read the bank's *Starting your Own Business* pamphlet, which

said: "Our advice is tailor-made, confidential and free... Your bank manager will help you to decide how much you can really afford to invest."

Lloyds loaned them £153,000, against the house and their two other mortgaged properties without, they claim, looking at a business plan. They spent £25,000 renovating the house and then the property market collapsed.

It took two years to find a buyer and they still had to finance the bank loan, with their debts accumulating interest at the rate of £15,000 a year. Eventually they had to accept £135,000 for the house, leaving them £21,000 out of pocket.

In September 1995 the couple successfully sued Lloyds for negligence and were awarded damages. But the money was redirected to the bank when six months later they counter-claimed for interest outstanding on the loan. The couple argued that as a result they owed the bank more money despite having proved its negligence.

They were due to appeal but had instead agreed the out-of-court settlement. They now hope to use their experience to move into business consultation. Mr Spindler said: "We have found out so much about the way businesses work that it seems only sensible to do something with what we've learnt."

Baby for heart transplant couple is world first

CHRIS and Rosalynde Lee have become the first heart transplant couple in the world to have a baby. Joseph Lee weighed in at 5lb 15oz when he was delivered by Caesarean section on Wednesday at Liverpool Women's Hospital.

Mrs Lee, 25, was warned of the dangers of giving birth by doctors who feared for her health, but, despite having had a heart transplant three years ago at Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester, she had a trouble-free pregnancy. She had regular heart scans at Wythenshawe during the nine months and was also monitored by doctors in Liverpool.

Mr Lee, 31, had a heart transplant seven years ago. The couple, from Speke, met during routine hospital check-ups and were married in June last year. With baby Joseph in a cot by her side, Mrs Lee said: "I am absolutely delighted to have the baby. He is everything I have ever hoped for."

"It was worth going through all that to have such a lovely baby. I just can't stop looking at him." A hospital spokesman confirmed both mother and baby were doing well. "There have been no problems whatsoever with Joseph and Ros. They are both healthy. But she is very tired and now needs some peace and quiet."



Rosalynde and Chris Lee with Joseph yesterday. Mother and baby are doing well

Cook's wife says male MPs are tempted by public adulation

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE estranged wife of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that the relationships of high-profile male MPs were constantly endangered by the temptations at Westminster.

In a frank assessment of the pressure of being an MP's wife Margaret Cook, 50, said that male MPs were particularly susceptible to public adulation. She wrote in a letter to *The Scotsman* that politicians spent too much energy competing against colleagues of their own party.

The pressure of the job meant that finer feelings and natural emotions became blunted. "Public recognition affords some

place, praise, adulation and acclaim become manna on which the starved soul feeds. He/she is likely to become strongly attracted to any person who regularly and unstintingly supplies it, to the severe detriment of other relationships."

Mr Cook ended his 28-year marriage last week after the *Evening Standard* reported that he had been having an affair with Gaynor Regan, 41, his House of Commons secretary for five years.

Mrs Cook, a consultant haematologist at St John's Hospital in Livingston, near Edinburgh, said in an interview last weekend that her job demands had meant she could not spend enough time in London with her husband.

From the moment the Foreign Secre-

tary stood on the steps of his London residence to confirm his secret affair, Mrs Cook has studiously avoided public bitterness. She praised her husband's political ability and skill, noting that these were "the only matters of concern to the general public". In turn Mr Cook praised her generosity and accepted sole blame for the collapse of the marriage.

Mrs Cook, in her letter which was written in response to a column about over-worked statesmen, held out the hope that the presence of 101 women Labour MPs might change the character of the House of Commons. "I believe women are less susceptible to the overdriven psyche. Probably by nature they are less aggressively competitive," she wrote.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blair gives key No 10 post to civil servant

Tony Blair has conformed with tradition and appointed a civil servant, rather than a political appointee, to the post of Principal Private Secretary. John Holmes succeeds Alex Allan who, the Foreign Office announced yesterday, is to become the new British High Commissioner — the Commonwealth equivalent of ambassador — in Australia. It had been suggested that Jonathan Powell, the Downing Street chief of staff, would replace Mr Allan.

Mr Holmes, who is in his mid-40s and married with three daughters, has been Foreign Affairs Private Secretary at No 10 for a couple of years. He will retain the role. He is a diplomat who has formerly served in Moscow, Paris and New Delhi, and whose previous posts include heading the Foreign Office's European Union department. He will work alongside Mr Powell in the Prime Minister's office, as Mr Powell and Mr Allan worked together.

Typhoid scare at resort

More than 400 British holidaymakers were moved from their four-star hotel in the Dominican Republic after three women who had stayed at the Coral Costa Caribe resort in Juan Dolio, used by Thomson, in July were found to have typhoid. The Department of Health has urged all visitors to the Dominican Republic to have typhoid inoculations. Thomas Sturzford, page 3

Blockade cash blocked

The French Government is refusing to pay compensation to hundreds of British firms that lost business as a result of a ports blockade by French lorry drivers last November. France has now made clear that they will not make any payments for lorries stranded outside the country at British ports and French borders. They have also said that compensation will be paid for specific losses only.

McVicar son is charged

The son of the reformed armed robber John McVicar has been charged with stealing a Picasso from a London gallery and nine other robbery or firearms offences. Russell Grant, 31, a writer, of no fixed abode, will appear at Kingston magistrates' court today accused of taking the £650,000 oil painting *Tête de Faune* from the Lefevre Gallery last March. The picture was recovered.

Hopes rise at tin mine

Redundancies among the 270 strong workforce at Britain's last tin mine, which is threatened with closure, were deferred for a month yesterday after the miners agreed to a 25 per cent productivity increase and a 10 per cent pay cut. Last week it was announced that the South Crofty complex, near Redruth, Cornwall, would close within six months because "there was no commercial future for it".

Oldest gets younger

The Guinness Book of Records awarded the title of oldest living person to a 116-year-old Canadian woman after the death last week of the previous title holder, Jeanne Calment, 112. Marie-Louise Phérouse McMillan, who lives in a nursing home in Ontario, will be 117 on August 29. Born in Quebec in 1880, she had 12 children by her two husbands and now has 300 descendants.

CJD rise among elderly

Most of the increase in Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease over the past 20 years, from 21 cases in the two-year period 1970-71 to 90 in 1994-95, is in older people and may reflect more accurate diagnosis, British scientists report in the *British Medical Journal*. They found a higher than expected incidence in people who had worked on cattle farms, but none had the new variant form linked with BSE in cattle.

Police face race charges

Two police officers branded as violent racists by a County Court Judge could face criminal charges for beating up a black nightclub bouncer. A jury, decided that Michael Smith, a former nightclub doorman, had been unlawfully arrested, maliciously prosecuted and assaulted by the West Midlands police officers, and awarded him £81,000 in compensation.

Bathers flee tidal wave

The ferry company Stena has begun an inquiry after its new high-speed catamaran, the 1500-tonne *Stena Discovery*, set off a tidal wave near a crowded beach. Sunbathers fled as the 10 ft-high wall of water swept onto the beach at Felixstowe, Suffolk, dragging children under the surface and drenching diners in a seafront restaurant. The swell occurred minutes after the vessel came in to dock.

Heathcliff comes home

Filming of a television dramatisation of Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* is scheduled to begin at an isolated farmhouse in North Yorkshire next month, ending controversy over the choice of location. Purists were outraged earlier this year when it emerged that London Weekend Television was considering Devon or Dorset. The decision was welcomed by the Bronte Society.

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German invaders outflank police in battle for beach

By RUTH GLEDHILL
AND ROGER BOYES

LANDINGS by a determined group of German cultists are being fought on the beaches and country lanes of Cornwall, to try to shift them from a remote spot which they believe is the perfect and only place to worship God.

The trouble is that Looe Bar, a National Trust-owned beauty spot between Helston and Penzance, is also the only known breeding site of the rare sandhill flat moth, and naturalists are concerned that the cult's presence is disrupting its lifestyle. The trust is accusing the cult of "an invasion".

Members of the obscure Hora Schaffranek Evangelists, founded in 1923, believe that God has directed them to Looe Bar. In recent weeks, 40 members have twice dropped anchor on the beach, and have twice been moved on by police. Even when evicted by officers from a special Tactical Aid Group, the cultists eventually outflank their opponents.

In their latest foray, the group travelled along narrow country lanes to avoid a series of obstacles positioned in their path by the police. The cultists filed in trenches, and pushed aside a large agricultural trailer blocking the way, to successfully re-establish themselves at their chosen place of worship.

Last night, all attempts to persuade them to move on were met by Bible quotations and the response: "Do you have Jesus in your life?"

The cultists are mostly German or Belgian and travel in a convoy of 25 cars and vans. Police were last night trying to puzzle out why they picked Looe. One theory is that they were attracted by the connections with Arthurian legend.

Separated from the sea only by a narrow shingle beach is Looe Pool, the largest freshwater lake in Cornwall and one of the places, according to the legend, where Arthur's sword Excalibur was thrown to be caught by the Lady of the Lake, as the King lay dying.

But according to German cult watcher Tomas Gordan, this is unlikely. "The group is 'known' in Germany but it is



The invaders: cult members meeting on the beach yesterday. They have defied three police operations

not considered powerful. This is the first time they have been known to extend their mission outside Germany, where they have a reputation for trying to recruit members at big Christian crusades.

"They are a small group of fundamentalist Christians," Herr Gordan said. They usually attach themselves to charismatic meetings and try to recruit people there.

"They could be in Cornwall for two reasons. Either they are having a communal holiday, or there is some kind of charismatic meeting somewhere in Cornwall and they want to try out some of their old tricks there." It emerged

last night that the cultists had already visited the home of some church leaders in Launceston, who are helping to organise a Good News Crusade next week in Tintagel.

"They told us their point of view," said one church leader, who asked not to be named.

"We sent them on their way. Basically, they don't believe in leadership, they believe in freelance Christianity. If they come to the Crusade, we have enough stewards to handle the situation."

Giles Cloworthy, spokesman for the National Trust, said: "It is very difficult to communicate with them, not just because of the language.

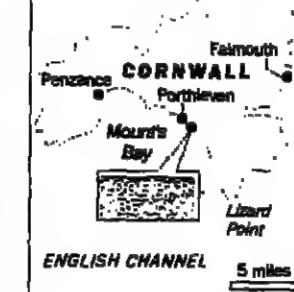
When you ask them anything, they just respond with 'Do you believe in Jesus?', which is quite a conversation stopper. They say that God has sent them to this place, and that they have a God-given right to be there."

"We thought we had taken sufficient action by digging holes and blocking the access with a trailer, but it seems we did not. We cannot allow unlawful trespass on this land. The Trust owns the beach for the benefit of the general public and not just a few people. There are also some very unusual and rare plants in the area. The German Embassy is being kept up

to date with developments. This is the third invasion of this beach and they are proving amazing persistent."

Sergeant John Trout, of the Cornwall Police, said: "They are all respectable, middle-class people, and they are all followers of Herr Schaffranek. They believe this beach is the ideal place to worship God."

He was speaking after one of the Germans, Lucy Muller, 67, appeared yesterday before magistrates in Truro, charged with assaulting a police officer. She and five other members of the sect who have also been arrested will appear before the court again this morning. There was a demon-



stration at the court yesterday, when sect members began reading from their Bibles and claiming justice was not being done.

The cult members are thought to be returning to Germany this weekend.

Miami cop has arresting time in London

By STEWART TENDERL
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AN AMERICAN policeman on holiday with his family in London chased and arrested a suspected Rolex raider.

Detective Sergeant John Petri from Miami, yesterday received a commendation from Scotland Yard for his quick thinking and courage after seeing a woman struggling with two men near Oxford Street this week.

Mr Petri, 48, was out walking with his wife, Gloria, and their daughter Joanna, 10, at the time. "We had just finished having a meal and decided to go for a walk when we saw two black males had grabbed a middle-aged Middle Eastern woman," he said.

"They took off heading north and I just went after them. I have been a policeman for 23 years and I immediately recognised what was happening. When you are a policeman it's in your blood."

Mr Petri went after the man he believed was the ringleader and followed him for half a mile. At one point he commanded a taxi to keep up the pursuit. Eventually he caught up with the man, who was leaning against a fence.

Mr Petri, who is also a lieutenant-colonel in the US Army reserve, held the man in an arm lock. When an angry crowd gathered and threatened the suspect, he asked them to call the police.

Detective Constable Julian Tunks, of the robbery squad based at Marylebone police station, said: "It was very brave and we can only commend him for his actions. Fortunately, the man wasn't armed. But we wouldn't encourage members of the public to do the same."

The victim was grazed and shocked by the incident. A 20-year-old man was questioned by police.

Judge replaces magistrate in Caroline case

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE magistrate in charge of investigating the rape and murder of British teenager Caroline Dickinson during a school trip to Brittany was yesterday replaced by a leading French judge.

In his first move since taking over from the magistrate Gérard Zaug, Judge Renaud Van Ruymbeke ordered DNA tests to be carried out on the 250 males aged between 15 and 35 in the village of Pléneu-Rougeré, where Caroline was murdered in July last year. Previous requests by her parents, John and Sue Dickinson, for DNA tests on local inhabitants had been refused by M Zaug.

Under French law, DNA testing may only be carried out with the consent of those involved. The teachers, coach driver and boys' who were with Caroline have already been DNA-tested and cleared.

The move was welcomed by the Dickinsons, who have been critical of the lack of progress on the case and who were in the appeal court in Rennes yesterday to hear Judge Van Ruymbeke's decision.

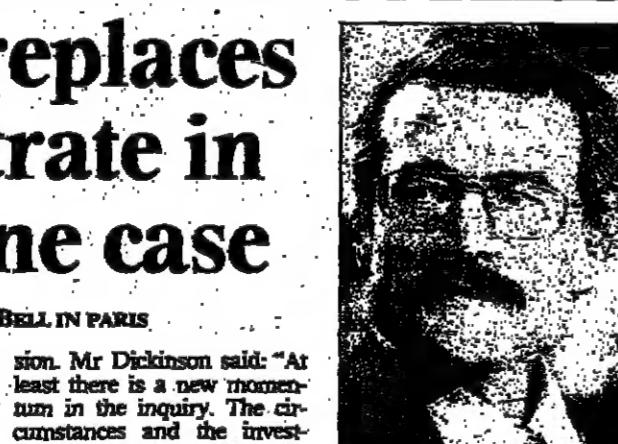
Aborigine's remains exhumed

Liverpool to return skull to its native land, reports Richard Ford

THE skull of Yagan, an Aboriginal warrior, was exhumed from its grave in a Liverpool cemetery last night after a delicate operation that took four hours.

A wooden box containing the skull was removed from a pauper's grave in the Everton cemetery and taken to Liverpool Museum 164 years after Yagan was shot by a bounty hunter in western Australia. The exhumation was the first step in a journey that will end with it being ceremonially buried in the Swan Valley, east of Perth.

Specialist workers were



Judge Van Ruymbeke known for his integrity

Girlfriend tells court of attack by soldiers

By MICHAEL THRODOLOU

A YOUNG Englishwoman told a court in Cyprus yesterday that a British soldier held her by the hair as other off-duty soldiers punched and kicked her boyfriend and another friend until both lay bloodied and unconscious.

Claire Harbour, 22, said she was told by the man restraining her: "Don't worry, it will be over in a minute."

The alleged assault outside a nightclub in the coastal resort of Ayia Napa was seen by a crowd of onlookers but none intervened. Ms Harbour, a nursery school nurse on holiday in Cyprus from her home in southeast London, said her boyfriend, Barry Ford, 23, and their friend, Shane Bell, who had tried to help, were left in a bad state.

Mr Ford, a quantity surveyor, needed 22 stitches to his face and head, and had a broken arm. Mr Bell, a car mechanic, has his jaw broken.

Four soldiers died causing grievous bodily harm. A fifth is being tried separately. All are serving with the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment. The trial continues.



Yagan: shot dead by a bounty hunter in 1833

under the Burial Act 1857, it needed the approval of all the babies' next of kin before the grave could be disturbed.

A spokesman for Liverpool council said that the skull would be handed over to the Australian High Commissioner. The exhumation took place before a delegation of seven Aboriginal elders arrived in Britain. Richard Wilkes, an Aboriginal elder, said the delegation ought to be in Liverpool. "We want to do the right thing by Yagan to allow his spirit to go into the Dream Time in a proper and religious way of the Noongar people," he said.

Yagan was a feared warrior and featured prominently in clashes with white settlers during the 1830s.

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Family cling to hope for US flood victim

Canyon hikers were within 100ft of safety, reports Giles Whittell

THE family of a British woman feared dead after a flash flood swept through a canyon in Arizona were last night waiting anxiously for news from rescue crews.

Charlotte Warmington, 24, a nursery nurse from Claverdon in Warwickshire, was among a group of 12 hikers walking in the narrow Lower Antelope Canyon, near Lake Powell in Arizona, when they were hit by an 11ft wall of water created by a freak storm. The American tour guide escaped and rescuers recovered the body of a French woman. Arizona police said that hopes were fading of finding the missing hikers alive.

Randy Servis, of the Coconino County sheriff's department, said: "There is a likelihood that the hikers will be so covered in sediment that search dogs will be unable to locate them. There is also a

chance that the group could have been washed away completely into Lake Powell which drops to 400ft deep in places."

Ms Warmington's mother, Gillian, said that she and her husband, Brian, were refusing to give up hope that their daughter would be found alive. "We know that the search will be resumed at 11am and we are sitting by the phone waiting for news," she said.

"Charlotte loves the outdoor life and this is the third time she has visited America. She has gone on a similar trip on her own in the past and enjoyed it so thoroughly that she thought she would go again this year. She is very much into outdoor pursuits. She is just so full of life — a real sweetie."

The hike, through an area that has been used as locations in *Planet of the Apes*, *The Outlaw Josie Wales* and *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, was organised by TrekAmerica, a British-based company. The US National Weather Service had issued a severe storm warning two hours before the flash flood struck, but the spot where the hikers were swept away had only a trace of rain. However, local companies had called off expeditions because of the



Charlotte Warmington: swept away by flood

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom was organised by TrekAmerica, a British-based company.

weather. The searchers include members of the Navajo tribe native to the area.

The one known survivor of the flood was yesterday struggling to come to terms with his escape. "As they were making their way out of the canyon he heard a loud roar and he knew exactly what it was," Sergeant David Ramos said after interviewing the guide, Francisco Quintana. "They were within 100ft of getting out."

Sergeant Ramos said Mr Quintana "tried to wedge his companions between some rocks higher up the canyon wall. Then he saw two other guys float past. After that, Quintana and the others held on for as long as they could. Eventually they all let go."

The guide was swept a quarter of a mile down the canyon in seconds but managed to grab on to some branches and heave himself out of the water. He was found stripped naked by the water, badly bruised and mumbling incoherently. Silt from the floodwater had filled his eyes so he could barely open them.



Cameramen setting up at the entrance to Antelope Canyon, which in places is 80ft deep but only 2ft wide

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Worn-out warships must limp on to 2002

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO of Britain's most famous warships, the assault vessels *HMS Intrepid* and *HMS Fearless*, which played key roles in the Falklands conflict and the Gulf War, have effectively failed their MoTs.

The 30-year-old *Intrepid* has just returned from an eight-month tour of duty in the Far East and is undergoing repairs at Portsmouth. It is so badly corroded that there are fears it may not be able to return to sea. The *Fearless*, its 32-year-old sister ship, depends on spare parts from the *Intrepid* to keep it afloat and is also in a poor state of repair.

The ships' condition, highlighted today in a National Audit Office report, raises a question mark over Britain's ability to launch a Falklands-style invasion.

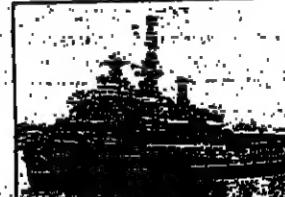
The two steam-driven ships led the land assault at San Carlos Water in the Falkland Islands. They steamed in under enemy fire to help sailors on the stricken *Sir Galahad* at Bluff Cove.

They were to have been taken out of service in December 1994, but will now remain on active duty until October 2002, when replacements are due. The extra manpower required to run the older vessels — some 550 compared with 325 for their replacements — accounts for half the £24 million running costs.

The material state of *HMS Intrepid* is now giving the department (MoD) cause for concern as it is proving difficult to sustain the declared readiness, the report states. "Routine structural surveys of the ship have revealed deteriora-



HMS Intrepid



HMS Fearless

tion of the hull in unsuspected areas. In addition, spare parts are taken from *HMS Intrepid* to keep *HMS Fearless* fully operational. There is, therefore, a significant risk that the ship, or even both, might not be available if both were required.

The NAO argues that the delay in the replacement of the ships is having a serious detrimental effect on Britain's military capability. "With renewed emphasis on rapid deployment forces ... a modern and efficient amphibious capability has become a pre-requisite for the Joint Rapid Deployment Force."

The NAO report also takes the Ministry of Defence to task over 20 of its 25 major procurement projects running behind schedule. Budgetary constraints meant that the average delay in the end of the 1996 financial year was 40 months, compared with 35 the year before.

Savile plans a racing return

BY PAUL WATKINSON

SIR JIMMY SAVILE plans to run a marathon only seven weeks after a quadruple heart bypass operation. The 71-year-old was speaking as he left Killingbeck Hospital in Leeds, six days after surgeons carried out the three-hour operation.

Wearing blue sunglasses, outlandish shorts and a T-shirt emblazoned with the logo, "Killingbeck Fived It for Jim", he told reporters that he intended to start jogging straight away. "My next marathon will probably be in Glasgow in six weeks' time. How do I feel? With my left hand. Terrific."

I found out I was not well 27 years ago, but I was just waiting for the right team. My condition is nothing to do with paragliding or wind-surfing or cigar-smoking. It was inherited."

Kevin Watkinson, who



Sir Jimmy, recovering after heart bypass

led the operation, said: "Jimmy has been an exceptional patient. He has recovered quicker than most people. From day one he pushed himself. We had to ask him to moderate it a bit. So far as the marathon is concerned, I would advise Jimmy to take it easy."

Before he left, Sir Jimmy handed over a cheque for £500 to pay for a party for all the staff.

Diary of a duchess on Tuscan holiday

From meditations on time to painting by numbers, and from pondering the solitude of exile to ways of watching her weight, a 'wild redhead' charts her days as an Englishwoman abroad

TIME. The very essence of it can slip by without so much as a moment of respect. On Monday, 4 August, I left a magical Tuscan farmhouse high on a hill and returned to Wentworth to attend the "Duchess of York's Golf Tournament" — fast becoming an annual event — for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. MND is the most debilitating, devastating, muscle-wasting disease, which waits for no man. (Stephen Hawking is one of the longest sufferers.) Andrew — steadfastly loyal to me and his Scottish Mutual team — started his victorious round dead on time, having already made sure that he had wished his grandmother a happy birthday in the morning. Later, in the evening, all 25 teams celebrated their rounds — particularly Andrew, as his team were the winners by ten points. The association received £45,000. I have always promised to keep shouting on behalf of the sufferers of MND, to raise awareness of the road to finding a cure. After spending a week with one of my guests who has Parkinson's disease, I am now hell-bent on seeing how or if I can help that cause too. To see a man with such a golden spirit willing his tired body forward is, without question, an inspiration never to give up the fight for every moment of life.

Tuesday. Having fitted in a show for Weightwatchers, we all returned to Italy in the evening to prepare for Beatrice's birthday on 8 August. An orchestra of crickets heralded our return to harmony. Andrew and I believe so much in this new Americanism of co-

parenting, and there is no question that we have more fun than the children, as inevitably I am left to finish the latest "paint-by-numbers" and Papa is left balancing dangerously on one of the inflatables floating on the swimming-pool — the blue water is certainly not in sight as "Dino" floats after "Pongo" et al.

The red, earthy, laterite soil was kicked up as Andrew, Beatrice and Eugenie headed off into the distant Tuscan hills on their way to join *PMY Britannia* as she sailed around the Western Isles. I was agonisingly aware of the heartache I felt when they left. It reminded me of the same feeling I had when my mother used to leave for Argentina. I always enjoyed the magic of my stay on the yacht, the stillness of the calm nights, the gentle swaying in the Scottish waters. I was able to relive my experience when I explained to my children how their days would be spent — with a little extra help thrown in from Disney's *The Lion King*, when Simba's father tells him to always look up to the stars when in need of comfort and solace.

The Italian locals have opened all their doors and their hospitality has been endless — my new friends: Sybilla and Gaddo della Gherardesca, are ceaseless in their kindness to make my stay unique. I often wonder if the English would be quite so generous back in Blighty. Pine trees, nuts, Fig trees, figs (how Alan Bates ate

Having to resist that Italian food will drive me crazy. I will have to get into a straitjacket?



The Duke and Duchess of York with the Princesses Beatrice, left, and Eugenie at the charity golf tournament

them in *Women in Love*). Olive trees, olives and oils. Sunflowers: more oils. Grapes: my favourite Cervaro. Pasta: spaghetti, taglierini, linguine. Meats: Parma ham. With every smell, I smell food. With every sight, I see food. I can almost hear food. I want to swipe the whole lot through my mouth at Mach 2. *Basta!* How can I then launch my Weightwatcher 1, 2, 3 on 1 September? I am supposed to be a paradigm of a weight-loser — perhaps the only thing I am allowed to add to being a

loser. It will drive me crazy having to resist all that Italian food. I will have to get into a straitjacket at night so that I won't be able to raid the obese (my least favourite adjective) fridge. But a brilliant idea comes to mind from reading *Hello!* I see the Queen of Sweden wearing a T-shirt with a supermodel figure in a bikini printed on it — maybe Weightwatchers won't notice if I put one on at the launch!

To return to my guest with

Parkinson's disease, which is very close to MND. Perhaps not everyone is like Stephen Hawking, but they all deserve our fight for a cure — not to mention humour. My guest was certainly not diminished in this when he was introduced to a rather upper-class Englishman who had come to stay with some aristocratic Italians. The Englishman was asked where he lived and he let slip "4,000 acres under plough" and then he ploughed on and on. No longer able to contain his

irritation, my guest asserted, "So you are a bit of a prat then", but only managed to stammer it through. "Oh yes," the Englishman replied with mild satisfaction, "I am a member of Pratt's."

After my arrival in Tuscany, I received many invitations to dinner from the local aristos. It is a refreshing emotion to feel wanted and I accepted everything recklessly. Then after the endless dinners, during which I met countless conti and contesse and

masses of marches and marchese, I began to suspect that they did not necessarily embrace me, but were just curious about this wild redhead. I hope that I satisfied their curiosity.

I like to paint and paint well, but somehow don't get it quite right. My pines and cypresses just don't look quite like pines and cypresses. I imagine I can cheat with all the paint-by-numbers that I have brought out for my children. Isn't it wonderful to see good results? Across the sea, I can just manage to make out the island of Elba which makes me think about being in exile. It is terrible to be in exile. I only want to read about all those who come out of exile in triumph, but not even Napoleon did, so perhaps I should not be so excited. I pine for my darling children who are on the yacht, and those unwelcome thoughts of being in exile.



Budgie: earlier try

It is so bad that it must be real

By ALAN HAMILTON

IN A previous bid for literary stardom, the Duchess of York was accused of wholesale plagiarism over her *Budgie The Little Helicopter* books.

The duchess's office swore yesterday that her latest *oeuvre* was genuinely her own work, hammered out on a laptop computer during her sojourn in Tuscany. They are probably right. There is no known literary seam from which she could have mined such artless endeavour.

The duchess's guest appearance as this week's diarist in *The Spectator* is so exasperating that it must be real. In other recent literary work, she has the good sense to employ a professional ghostwriter who translates her thoughts into something approaching a readable screed. Left to herself, she is embarrassing.

The explanation seems simple. If her diary is at all an accurate record of her week's vacation, she patiently has no time left in which to sit down and give her literary effort more than three minutes' thought. The duchess is plainly in need of a holiday.

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Fighting Frasers gather for a peaceful reunion

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THEY have been fighting their way around the world for centuries. They have been heroes, villains and great beauties. Now the modern members of the Clan Fraser are coming home. It will be a happy family reunion, but not very quiet.

More than 12,000 from around the world started arriving yesterday in Aberdeenshire for their first gathering in 46 years. The four-day event at Castle Fraser, near Inverurie on the River Don, will feature massed piped bands, Highland games, falconry displays and ceilidhs as well as history lectures.

It is being hosted jointly by Lady Saltoun, chief of the Clan Fraser and by Lord Lovat, chief of the Clan Fraser of Lovat. Lord Lovat, 20, is optimistic that his sister, the international model Honor Fraser, will grace the gathering, and "Mad" Frankie Fraser, the former East End gangster currently supporting an Edinburgh Festival Fringe production, is threatening to turn up on Sunday.

Many others are arriving from Europe, the United States, Australia and Canada. There are 46 descendants of just one Invernesshire man, Donald Fraser, who emigrated to Canada in 1773 aged

from six to 80, their homes are spread across North America. Many have never been to Scotland before.

"There is every conceivable accent, and I've heard the name Fraser pronounced in dozens of ways," said Robert Lovie, press officer for the National Trust for Scotland, which has helped to arrange the event.

It is expected that the gathering will raise several hundred thousand pounds for the trust and millions for the tourist economy of Aberdeenshire. "There may not be another gathering like it for another 50 years."

There is a large contingent from France, where the name is said to have originated. The Frasers first appeared in Scotland in about 1160, when Simon Fraser is recorded as

holding lands at Keith, in East Lothian. More than 30 other surnames are affiliated to the clan, including those of Abernethy, Bisset, Oliver, Sim, Simon and Tweedie, all brought in through marriage or affiliation over the past 800 years.

Flora Fraser, the 20th to hold the Saltoun title, has commissioned three new tartans for the gathering to add

to the 21 Fraser tartans already in circulation.

The Frasers have always been battle-warriors, although not always for the winning side. Sir Simon Fraser was captured and executed by Edward I in 1306 while fighting for Robert the Bruce.

In 1592, Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth received the fishing village of Faithie from James VI, which he transformed into the town of Forresburgh. The ninth laird of Philorth married the heiress of the Abernethy Lords Saltoun, thus linking two influential families.

The 10th Lord Saltoun was severely wounded at the Battle of Worcester in 1651, but was rescued by his servant. The 16th Lord Saltoun was instrumental in the Battle of Waterloo and the 19th was a prisoner of war in Germany during the First World War.

The Frasers of Lovat are linked by marriage to the Clan Fraser. The 11th Lord Lovat was a famous Jacobite known as "The Old Fox". In 1899 the then Lord Lovat raised the Lovat Scouts to fight in the Boer War.

The 17th Lord Lovat was a distinguished commando leader during the Second World War, and helped to give the world one of its greatest international heroes: he was the role model for Ian Fleming's James Bond.



On giant's shoulders: a younger clan member enjoying a high vantage point yesterday

THE PICK OF THE STRAWBERRY CROP



Crest: strawberry link

□ Charlton Heston, whose grandmother was a Fraser, is entitled to wear the Fraser tartan. So are the heavyweight boxer Joe Frazier, the actresses Jacqueline Bisset and Joan Sims and the model Honor Fraser.

□ There are several legends about the origin of the name, and the strawberries on the family crest, Charles, King of France, is said to have stopped at a village near Bourron in 916, and was served with ripe strawberries by Julius de Berry, who was then knighted and given the name de Fraize. Another theory stems from the Frisell tribe in Roman Gaul, whose badge was a strawberry plant.

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Britons in world helicopter feat

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

TWO British pilots have set a new record for flying around the world by helicopter.

Former Royal Navy pilot Mike Smith, 59, and Steve Good, 40, flew 19,982 miles in 13 days, 13 hours and 40 minutes to claim the record. They were airborne for 198 hours, averaging 14 hours a day for nearly 14 days, and claim to be the first Britons to achieve thefeat in a helicopter.

"I have to admit I am feeling rather tired now," Mr Smith, who owns Heli Air, a group of helicopter training schools and who is a distributor for Robinson helicopters, said.

The Hughes 500D single-engined helicopter in which they grabbed the record back

CORRECTION

The Saffeguard of the Sea by N.A.M. Rodger (reviewed yesterday) will be published by HarperCollins on September 1.

Dolphin, for a new lease of life in the bathroom



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Families celebrate twin successes at A level

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TWO brains proved better than one for several sets of twins who enjoyed double celebrations after yesterday's A-level results were published.

The most successful family in Britain was the Brenans, from Chesterfield, where twins Paul and Simon notched up five A levels apiece. They were closely followed by the Eastons from North Tyneside, with Anna scoring four A grades and Daniel, by 17 minutes the younger twin, collecting five A grades. The

most outstanding individual performance was recorded by Philip Croker with his seven A-grade passes and there were also four sets of six straight As across the country. However the scale of their achievement was at least matched by Russian student Oleg Lerner and Polish-born Boguslaw Kysinski, with five As each.

Oleg came to Britain in 1991 from Moscow not speaking a word of English. He has not only mastered the language but also gained top grades in maths, further maths, chemistry, history and general stud-

ies while studying at King Edward's Five Ways School, Birmingham.

Oleg, who will be taking a place at Wadham College, Oxford, said: "I didn't slog my guts out to pass the exams. For most of the two years in the sixth form, I just did enough to keep my head above water and then I worked really hard at the last moment."

Boguslaw, 18, who barely spoke English when he joined Clifton College in Bristol two years ago, achieved five A grades in maths, further maths, economics, Spanish and Polish. He has won a place at

Cambridge and was 1st night celebrating his success with friends in Warsaw.

Paul Brennan, who studied alongside twin brother Simon at St Mary's High School in Chesterfield, said: "We compete with each other as regards school and life in general. But we are not competitive in a negative sense. We are always spurring each other on."

Paul is heading to Edinburgh to read music after his success in mathematics, physics, chemistry, French and general studies. His brother hopes to go to Cambridge to

read mathematics after As in maths, physics, further maths, German and general studies.

Twins Tom and Geoff Johnstone were also celebrating a double after each gained four grade As. The 18-year-old brothers, from Blundellsands, studied at Merchant Taylor Boys School in Crosby, Merseyside. Identical twins David and Mark Johnson, aged 18, also each achieved three As at Richard Huish College, Taunton, Somerset.

Education, page 31
Course vacancies, pages 33-34



Hannah Erlichman, left, and Helen Cooles from Lady Margaret School, delighted to have got good grades

Students feeling relieved to have made the grade

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL AND EMMA WILKINS

A LINE of boys left the secretary's office at the Royal Grammar School, Colchester, yesterday after learning how they had fared in their A levels. Most were smiling.

Philip Cowans and Andrew Dolphin celebrated five As each, grades that helped them to their selective school to finish in the top 20 of *The Times*' league table.

Philip, who will be going to Churchill College, Cambridge, to read natural sciences, said: "I had a sleepless night and now I'm just feeling amazed. I thought I'd done reasonably well but this was something else. I'm off to the pub to celebrate."

Andrew, who will be taking a year off to work in a London insurance office, has been offered a deferred place for 1998 at Southampton University to read management and French but is now

considering applying to Cambridge. He said: "I couldn't manage my breakfast. I'm seriously overwhelmed." He was one of a small number of students at the school relieved by the Government's U-turn over plans to charge £1,000 a year in course fees for students taking a break this year.

At Lady Margaret School, a girls' comprehensive in Parson's Green, West London, 50 sixth formers collected their better-than-expected results.

Helen Cooles achieved BBC in Fine Art, Music and English after being predicted DDF. "I didn't apply to university because I didn't think I would do well enough. Now I don't know what to do next," she said. "I am shocked. I just phoned my mum and she was so pleased."

Top state schools at A level

sex	type	no of pupils	av pts/pupl	sex	type	no of pupils	av pts/pupl
boys	GM	197	25.2	girls	GM	123	21.0
mix	FE	507	24.9	girls	GM	76	21.0
mix	GM	88	24.7	girls	GM	101	21.0
girls	GM	98	24.7	boys	GM	598	21.0
boys	GM	114	24.6	girls	GM	108	20.9
boys	GM	128	24.57	boys	GM	122	20.9
boys	GM	110	24.1	mix	VA	129	20.85
boys	GM	132	24.0	girls	LEA	112	20.8
boys	LEA	90	23.8	boys	GM	160	20.8
mix	LEA	59	23.8	mix	VA	85	20.75
girls	LEA	58	23.65	mix	VA	104	20.7
mix	GM	190	23.6	girls	GM	91	20.5
boys	Vol	125	23.6	girls	GM	123	20.5
boys	GM	92	23.3	boys	VA	82	20.3
boys	GM	90	23.3	girls	GM	110	20.3
mix	VA	546	23.1	mix	FE	60	20.35
mix	VA	40	23.0	girls	GM	49	20.2
mix	Vol	105	23.01	mix	VA	77	20.2
girls	GM	89	22.9	girls	GM	90	20.1
boys	LEA	188	22.8	mix	VA	172	20.0
girls	GM	78	22.5	mix	GM	101	20.0
mix	VA	52	22.5	boys	VA	123	20.0
girls	GM	108	22.3	girls	GM	103	20.0
mix	GM	157	22.1	mix	VA	85	19.87
girls	GM	68	22.0	mix	VA	37	19.8
boys	GM	149	22.0	mix	VA	141	19.8
mix	VA	118	21.9	mix	VA	130	19.8
mix	VA	68	21.9	mix	VA	101	19.7
girls	GM	70	21.8	mix	VA	145	19.6
girls	VA	81	21.5	mix	VA	104	19.6
girls	GM	60	21.5	mix	VA	191	19.5
mix	VA	64	21.3	boys	VA	97	19.5
mix	VA	98	21.2	mix	VA	105	19.4
mix	VA	98	21.1	mix	FE	308	19.4
mix	VA	118	21.1	mix	VA	85	19.3
mix	VA	143	21.1	mix	VA	79	19.2

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DRAMA
VH-1
MUSIC THAT MEANS SOMETHING.

Conquering disease as an enemy of Empire

Victoria's ascent to the throne was to herald an astonishing series of social changes in Britain, with the Government at last taking a measure of responsibility for individual welfare.

The maintenance of public health in a rapidly expanding industrial society was now among the highest priorities on an agenda for progress: a healthy workforce was a productive workforce. Of course, there were altruistic reasons for preventing the spread of disease too — the Victorian obsession with air, light and cleanliness, as one historian has put it. Life could still be short and brutish, but contagion and high infant mortality rates were no longer regarded as inevitable.

How plagues of cholera and a determined royal doctor uncovered the link between death and dirty water

Disease and early death could be conquered like any other enemy of Empire.

However, as the trade routes from India opened in earnest, so the big cities were to find themselves open to a plague as terrifying as the Black Death. Cholera had struck before Victoria's reign, killing 6,000 people in October 1831, but a subsequent outbreak in 1848 was met not with resignation but resistance. The epidemic cut down 14,000. Later plagues were to kill a further 16,000 people before Dr John Snow, Victoria's own obstetrician, won the first decisive victory against the disease. He recognised

a link between the mingling of human waste with drinking water. He recognised too the need for an effective sewerage system.

Snow's views on prevention in the absence of cure met with royal approval. The disease was universally dreaded, and in the early years of Victoria's reign there was a 50 per cent mortality rate. Snow's rivals in the medical establishment believed that cholera was caused by an aerial poison from the putrefaction of rotting bodies or old vegetables. With the backing of his Queen, he argued that it was water-borne, pointing out that the highest casualty rate was from those who

used a pump at Broad Street, Soho. He persuaded the authorities to chain the handle of the pump, and the incidence of cholera in the area dropped overnight.

During the third and last epidemic before the London sewers were built, Snow found that the worst pockets of contagion were Southwark and Vauxhall. Both areas obtained water from a section of the Thames contaminated by sewage from Baltic merchant ships and from the City. His findings brought great improvements to sanitation and water supplies.

Although by 1860 there were 80 hospitals in London, with similar

expansion outside the capital, little provision had been made for the poor, apart from the sick wards in the workhouse. In 1867, as the nation's health became a higher priority, a public hospital system was established.

Generally, demographic growth and economic success came at the cost of profound damage to the environment. Concern over high concentrations of smoke can be traced back to the 13th century, but by Victorian times those living in the big cities were choking on pollution.

The term "smog" was coined in the 1840s to describe the lethal

mixture of smoke and fog. The

Smoke Abatement Acts (1853-56)

and the Sanitation Act (1860) were

serious and badly needed attempts

to curb emissions. Yet the smog

kept London in its grip for almost

another century. In Victorian Brit-

ain, the cloud of industry far

outweighed the public good.

The well-off, as ever, could afford

their escape. Pollution posed no

health risk for those able to flee the

big cities and the year-round grime

and fog for "the cure". Taking the

waters at Bath or Buxton, high in

the Peak District, became the social

imperative for the well-heeled Vic-

torian invalid or hypochondriac.

Buxton spa, in particular, offered an extraordinary range of treatments. The "cold hose douche" — forerunner to colonic irrigation — was a particular favourite among the constipated. The "liver pack" — a large block of ice on the stomach — proved popular too. There were separate pools for men and women, individual centrally heated changing rooms, carpeted corridors, maids and valets dancing attendance, and cooling rooms in which to sit and pen postcards home.

Much of the baths has been preserved, including the original pale green Minton tiling of the corridors. The atmosphere is still in keeping with the Victorian age, although a world away from the workhouse.

MICHAEL POWELL

Underground feat that swept away London health hazard

Bill Frost reports on the enormous strides in public health made by Victorian physicians and engineers

In an age of engineering adventure, the design and construction of the London sewers must rank among the boldest. Despite the passage of time, they have not crumbled into disrepair and remain in good condition to this day, although investment is needed to keep them up to scratch.

The system was the work of Sir Joseph Bazalgette, creator of the Victoria, Albert and Chelsea embankments, new bridges at Putney and Battersea, and the Woolwich steam ferry. However, his most elaborate commission, 63 miles of intercepting sewers, transformed the Thames into one of the cleanest metropolitan rivers in Europe. Waterborne diseases, which historically had been the scourge of the capital, were banished.

By 1800, London's popula-



tion had topped one million. Cesspools installed, after the Great Fire of 1666 often overflowed. In 1815, the Government allowed the pits to be linked to the primitive sewer system, but that proved of no great benefit to public health.

Early in the Victorian age, new sewers were built by property developers across London, but to low standards. The system was random and uncoordinated, with the

Thames and its tributaries the only major disposal routes. By 1850 the river was severely polluted and foul-smelling. At the same time cholera and yellow fever were linked for the first time to inadequate sewage disposal, and polluted water. Cesspools harboured disease, while flushing lavatories, which were introduced in 1810, added to the pollution of the Thames. Urban cesspools were banned in 1848 and, as a consequence, still greater amounts of waste were directed into the river.

The Government was compelled to take action, creating the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers. Bazalgette was appointed as the commission's chief engineer, planning a grand design of sewers, pumping stations and storage tanks. London's sewage was to be integrated into a new network with treatment and disposal carried out downstream east of the city.

Costings were modest but the fear of financial problems and bickering among consultants working on the project held back progress. It was only in 1856, when the stench from the river forced Parliament to rise, that the Government pressed ahead with Bazalgette's scheme.

Major cross-city interception sewers were built. Much larger than their predecessors, they cut across existing sewers which were primarily of north-south flow. They were built at three levels and used gravity from west to east to remove sewage from the existing network. By the time the system was completed in 1875, a network of drains serving every street and ultimately every building was being es-

tablished as the built-up area expanded.

Today Bazalgette's achievement is mostly out of sight and, sadly, out of mind. However, an impressive example of his work can be seen on open days at the Crossness pumping station in Abbey Wood, South London. Opened in

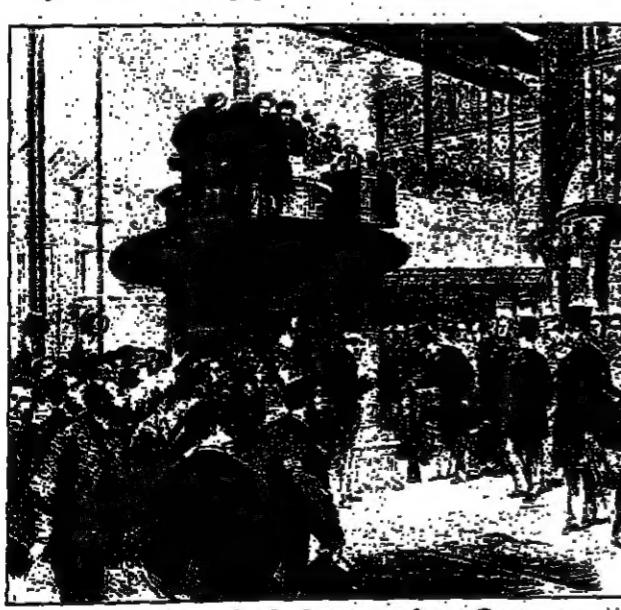
April 1865 by the Prince of Wales, the pumping station is a superb example of Bazalgette's vision and skill. The Italianate building holds four beam engines by James Watt & Sons. With a beam over 40ft long and weighing 47 tons, each engine has a lifting capacity of 125 tons per

minute. Bazalgette named them Victoria, Prince Consort, Alexandra and Albert.

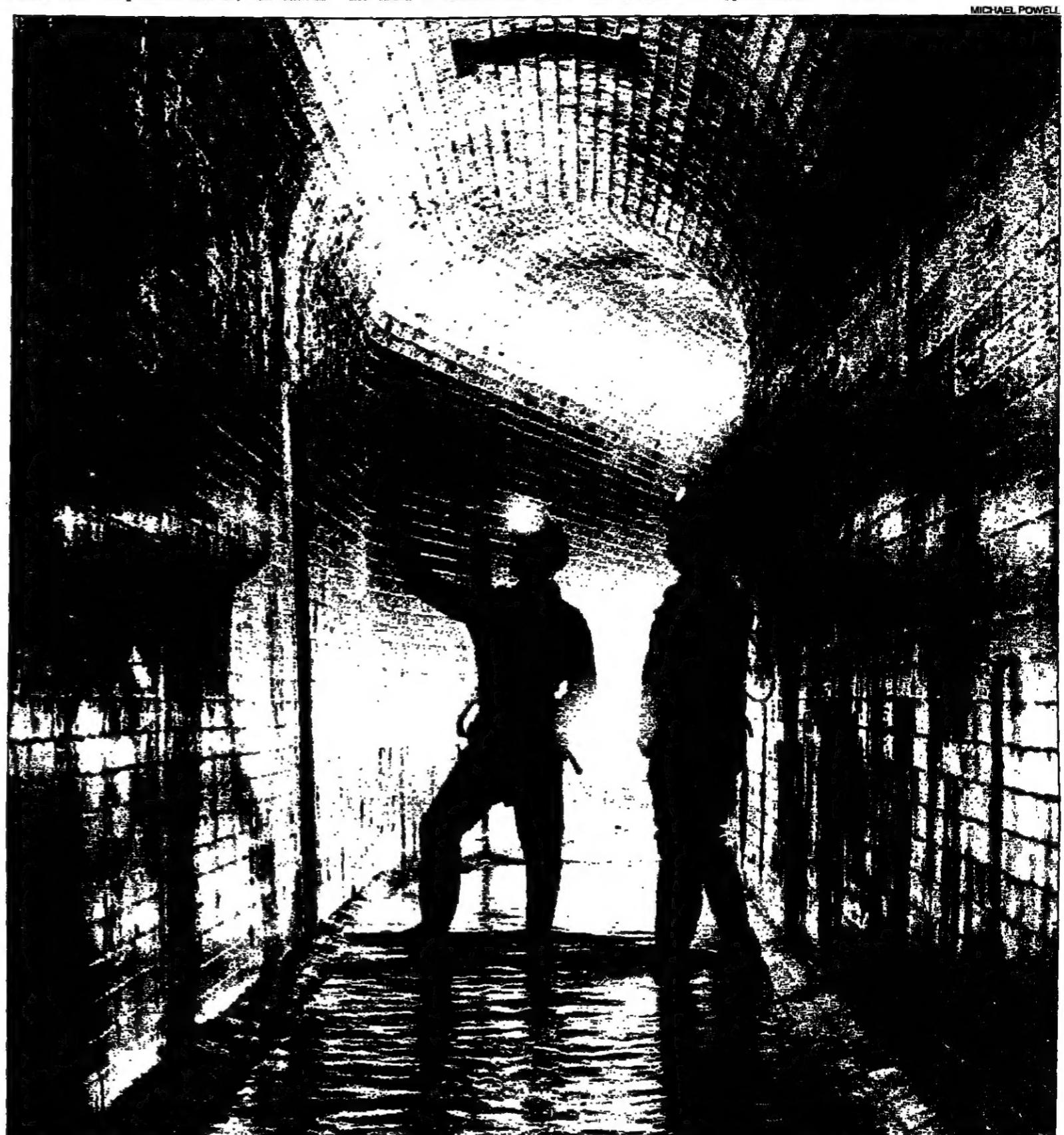
Effluent from the Southern Outfall Sewer was lifted by the engines into a lofty, covered reservoir and held until after high tide so that, on discharge, the tide would carry it out to sea.

Decommissioned in 1953, the pumping station is now a Grade I listed building.

□ Regular open days at Crossness are under consideration. In the meantime, for details of occasional open days, contact the Crossness Engines Trust, 0181-303 6723



Opening the main drainage works at Crossness



London's sewers — this one was beneath Fleet Street — were completed in 1875 but were so well built that they are in good condition today

The guiding light for today's nurses

The lady with the lamp has a deservedly shining reputation for far more than her caring image, says Damian Whitworth

Florence Nightingale was a legend in her own wartime. But famous though she was in the two years she spent in the Crimea, she did more than tend to ailing soldiers. The lamp she lit showed up the medical failings of a whole age and is still alight today.

Nowhere is her position as the grandmother of modern nursing better illuminated than in a corner of the car park at St Thomas' Hospital in London. In the basement of the building that held the original Nightingale training school for nurses is the Florence Nightingale Museum, a small but impressively organised display.

Born into a wealthy family, Nightingale was well educated and even better connected. She spurned marriage in favour of answering her calling to be a nurse. After study and practical work on the Continent and in London, in 1854 she was invited by her friend, Sidney Her-

bert, Secretary of War, to go to the Crimea in charge of the first batch of female nurses to join British troops at the front. William Howard Russell, *The Times'* special correspondent, had reported on the poor facilities for caring for the wounded and Nightingale distributed the money from a fund set up by this newspaper to improve conditions.

The popular image of her as the lady with the lamp — moving from one prostrate soldier to the next through the night — owed much to contemporary reports and artists. She rapidly became such a heroine at home among a populace demoralised by the bad news of the war that she was featured in countless cheap portraits and figurines. A number of racehorses were

named after her. But Alex Attewell, curator of the museum, emphasises that she was less a ministering angel than a brilliant administrator.

Nightingale shook up a culture where bungling was epidemic. On one occasion a shipment of right-footed boots had arrived; the left feet then sank on a separate boat. Nightingale did not know of germs (and later didn't believe in them) but understood the need for good sanitation and championed the importance of avoiding "noxious air", reorganising the hospital wards so that there was space between beds and as much light and air and as little grime as possible. "The toughest will be needed at the washing tub," she told her nurses. She began to compile statistics

showing that more men were dying of disease from the appalling conditions than were killed in battle.

One of the most amusing documents in the museum is her list of nurses which shows what a formidable disciplinarian she was. Against some names she has written: "Sent home for misconduct and intoxication."

Nightingale's work really started on her return from the Crimea, as she brought her reforming zeal to a wider society. She went to see Queen Victoria to talk about her work and used her clout and contacts to have a royal commission set up on the health of the Army. She then shifted her focus to India. She never visited the jewel of the Empire but collated statistics about

disease, firstly among the forces and then the population in general, to influence the way the colony's health system was run.

At home she designed hospitals, using her experience from the Crimea, with wards full of windows and space. Some of these wards still survive.

Florence Nightingale died aged 90, having seen the first ten years of this century. She was to continue to influence rather more of it. "Her true legacy has been oversimplified," says Mr Attewell. "She was so advanced in her thinking that she effected great changes that are still being felt today."

The Florence Nightingale Museum, St Thomas' Hospital, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EW. Tel 0171-520 0374. Open Tues-Sun and Bank Holiday Mondays, 10-5, last admission 4pm. Adults £2.50. Children/students/OAPs/disabled £1.50. Family ticket £5



Florence Nightingale at Scutari: lingering influence

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Cosmonauts return to earthly trials

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

TWO luckless Russian cosmonauts ended one of the toughest missions mounted in space yesterday when they returned to Earth after six months of constant mishaps on the ageing space station Mir.

Looking but happy, Vasili Tsibliev, the commander, and Aleksandr Lazutkin, the flight engineer, said they were "happy to be back on Earth" after their *Soyuz* capsule touched down in the steppes of Kazakhstan.

Debriefing sessions over the next few days will try to establish reasons for the series of mishaps that plagued the trip. If human error is found to be a reason, the cosmonauts could be penalised by the space agency. Under the terms of their contract, they should get more than £11,500 each for their 185-day mission and could double that with bonuses for space walks and other complex operations. Two years ago two cosmonauts were fined for refusing to go on a space walk and had to go to court to get the money.

A NASA spokesman said its astronauts were paid flat sala-

ries and did not get bonuses or lose money for errors.

Yesterday the cosmonauts underwent medical examinations. A cardiac team was on standby to treat Mr Tsibliev, who developed a stress-related heart condition last month.

Further tests will be conducted over the next few days

The mission must rank as one of the most gruelling in history. Soon after their arrival in February, Mir suffered the worst fire in space history and from then on, hardly a week went by without a major setback: the cooling system leaked toxic chemicals into the station, the air-generating machines broke down, the carbon dioxide removal system stopped working and the computer malfunctioned repeatedly.

The worst incident occurred on June 25 when a *Progress* supply ship crashed into one of Mir's modules during a manual docking procedure executed by Mr Tsibliev. The collision punctured the Spektr module, which is now sealed off from Mir and has led to the loss of half of the orbiter's

electrical power. Following that, a crew member accidentally disconnected a vital cable which left the orbiter disoriented.

Mr Tsibliev has come under intense criticism from space officials, the press and indirectly from President Yeltsin. "It was not technical failure," the Russian leader said during a visit to the space headquarters last week. "Most probably it was the crew — the human factor."

as the cosmonauts have been living in weightless conditions, which normally cause extensive muscle wastage, since February.

The cosmonauts were also expected to indulge in luxuries forbidden in space, in particular a good bottle of claret, a hot shower — their first in six



Vasili Tsibliev, left, and Aleksandr Lazutkin, sit on the ground in Kazakhstan after the stressful six-month trip.

• Tsibliev's bosses should call it even and give him a hero's welcome

months — and fresh food. They will be allowed home in about ten days.

However, the welcoming may begin to turn sour as early as tomorrow when they are scheduled to meet Russian journalists, who are expected to concentrate on the allegations of human error.

The mission must rank as one of the most gruelling in history. Soon after their arrival in February, Mir suffered the worst fire in space history and from then on, hardly a week went by without a major setback: the cooling system leaked toxic chemicals into the station, the air-generating machines broke down, the carbon dioxide removal system stopped working and the computer malfunctioned repeatedly.

The crash, which doctors believe triggered his subsequent heart condition, led to the decision by Mission Control to send up a relief crew last week which will attempt to repair the Spektr module in a series of extremely dangerous space walks.

Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, President Yeltsin's special adviser on space, insisted yesterday that a thorough investigation would be conducted before any blame was apportioned and insisted that the authorities were not "looking for a scapegoat".

However, even with the best intentions the row threatens to turn into a major debate.

Some prominent members of the space agency clearly want Mr Tsibliev to be punished,

for allegedly miscalculating the weight of the craft involved in June's collision. But the crew's supporters argue that the authorities are simply trying to shift the blame for

continuing to run an ageing and potentially lethal space station, which should have been retired years ago.

"If Tsibliev broke the Russian Space Agency's space station, he also helped keep the dingy, orbital battleye going six years past its intended expiry date, in conditions of terrifying uncertainty," said a leading article in yesterday's *Moscow Times*: "His bosses should call it even and give him a hero's welcome."

Dictionary of Strine tells how not to be a drongo

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE

IN SYDNEY

PEOPLE moving to Australia who do not speak English could soon find themselves sounding rather more like the locals than perhaps they would wish, thanks to the publication yesterday of the first *Australian Learner Dictionary*.

The book aims to teach new arrivals everything from how to order chook and veggies from a milk bar, to when to wear a cossie and when not to call someone a drongo. It also aims to give them some insight into the Australian way of life, with funnel webs, panel vans and bottle shops all making an appearance.

Professor Chris Candlin, Professor of Linguistics at Macquarie University, Sydney, and one of the book's editors, says he hopes it will promote the idea of Australian English as a distinct language and counteract the growing prevalence of American words in Australia.

"We're trying to help people understand the kinds of language they read and hear and see in Australia. Australia in my view has not at all exploited its key place as an English-speaking country which is not British or American, when a lot of countries are looking for another voice."

Australia is a very interesting society from a language point of view, and hopefully this will ease the process of migrants coming to live here."

Launching the book in Sydney yesterday, Philip Ruddock, the Immigration Minister, said: "Learning English is one of the most important tasks facing many migrants. Research shows that new migrants settle more quickly when they have a reasonable command of English."

The dictionary also aims to give migrants an insight into Australian culture, with descriptions of life and tips on when to use certain words.

"For example, it points out, 'lots of people use the words 'lone' or 'dear', even if they don't really mean them. It's meant to be friendly, but it may offend some people, so be careful'."

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India marks 'golden moment' of liberty

Midnight ceremonies follow stark reminders of continuing poverty, corruption, violence and division

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

INDIA turned to its televisions and radios at midnight last night to bathe in the nostalgia of half a century of independence, reminding itself, as President Narayanan, declared in a nationwide address, that "this midnight hour... is a golden moment in the history of India".

Parliament assembled for a midnight session to hear the taped speeches of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister, and Mahatma Gandhi, father of independence, who together led a fifth of humanity, 400 million people, to freedom from colonial rule.

During the day, the chamber of the Lok Sabha (lower house) had been a hub of screaming abuse, with MPs threatening fistcuffs in a row over demands for presidential rule to be imposed on the northern state of Bihar — which has appalling corruption as well as the nation's worst poverty. It is the model for all that has gone wrong with the dreams of 50 years.

It was a rude reminder of how far India has yet to go. But early in the morning the dignity of the occasion prevailed as Parliament heard Nehru's voice declaring that at the midnight hour the soul of a nation, long suppressed, found utterance.

The old men of the freedom struggle, some in their nineties earlier participated in a parade down Rajpath, the former King's Road, which sweeps down from the Presidential Palace through wide lawns to India Gate — monuments built by the Raj to dominate, but now responding to the sounds and aspirations of an India seeking prosperity and modernisation.



50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Many of the freedom fighters spent years in colonial jails, as had Nehru and Gandhi. The survivors are entitled to special pensions and travel concessions on trains, a dying band of idealists enjoying the modest fruits of their suffering. They were treated shabbily yesterday.

They were jammed together on the hard floors of government buildings, where they slept in the clammy monsoon heat. Some were so upset they wanted to go home early. But they stayed, twiddling their radios at midnight to hear the President remind them of the "tragedy and the trauma" of partition when they were young. He proclaimed India's

success in maintaining its unity, and declared its greatest achievement to be the establishment of a democratic system of government and politics. Referring to the lower castes and the Untouchables, from where he springs, President Narayanan said the lower and poor sections of society, as well as women, were being drawn into the political system.

Hundreds of miles to the east, just hours before the midnight celebrations, a bomb exploded in a passenger train in Assam, killing at least six people. It was planted by Bodo tribesmen, who are demanding a homeland in what has become one of the most traumatised corners of India.

It was a reminder of the many diverse and violent struggles going on across the nation. Even the Punjab separatist movement, crushed after a decade of bloodletting, shows signs of flickering back to life. To the north, Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister of Kashmir, declared in an independence-day message that no power on earth could undo the "historic reality" of the state's accession to India in 1947.

This was a reminder to Kashmiri Muslims that their dream of secession from India will continue to be forcibly opposed. His father, Sheikh Abdullah, the Kashmiri leader, was jailed by Nehru for dabbling with the idea of an independent state. Farooq Abdullah is the voice of pro-Indian Kashmiri Muslims. A minority almost too small to count, a man not much loved by his own crushed, disillusioned people, for whom mid-night passed in silent despair.

Patrick French, page 16
Leading article
and letters, page 17

Boothroyd hails birth of nation

Delhi: Betty Boothroyd, the Commons Speaker, in the capital for the jubilee, said India's birth was the most inspiring world event in more than 50 years, the Press Trust of India reported. "There have been many historic events since the end of the Second World War," she said. "None has been more heartening, more desirable and more inspiring than the establishment of the state of India." (AFP)

Two die as police fire on crowd at Jinnah's tomb

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN
IN ISLAMABAD

CELEBRATIONS of the anniversary of Pakistan's independence were overshadowed yesterday when a riot erupted in Karachi.

Police fired on surging crowds, killing two young men and wounding three.

Thousands of people had gathered outside the tomb of Pakistan's founder, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, in a colourful ceremony that quickly turned from jubilation to violence as police moved in with batons to disperse the crowd. People took off their shoes and began throwing them at police, one of whom opened fire.

Celebrations were peaceful elsewhere, and Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, issued a call for peace with neighbouring India. "It is now the time for India and Pakistan to leave their differences behind them and march together towards peace and prosperity," Mr Sharif declared. At the same

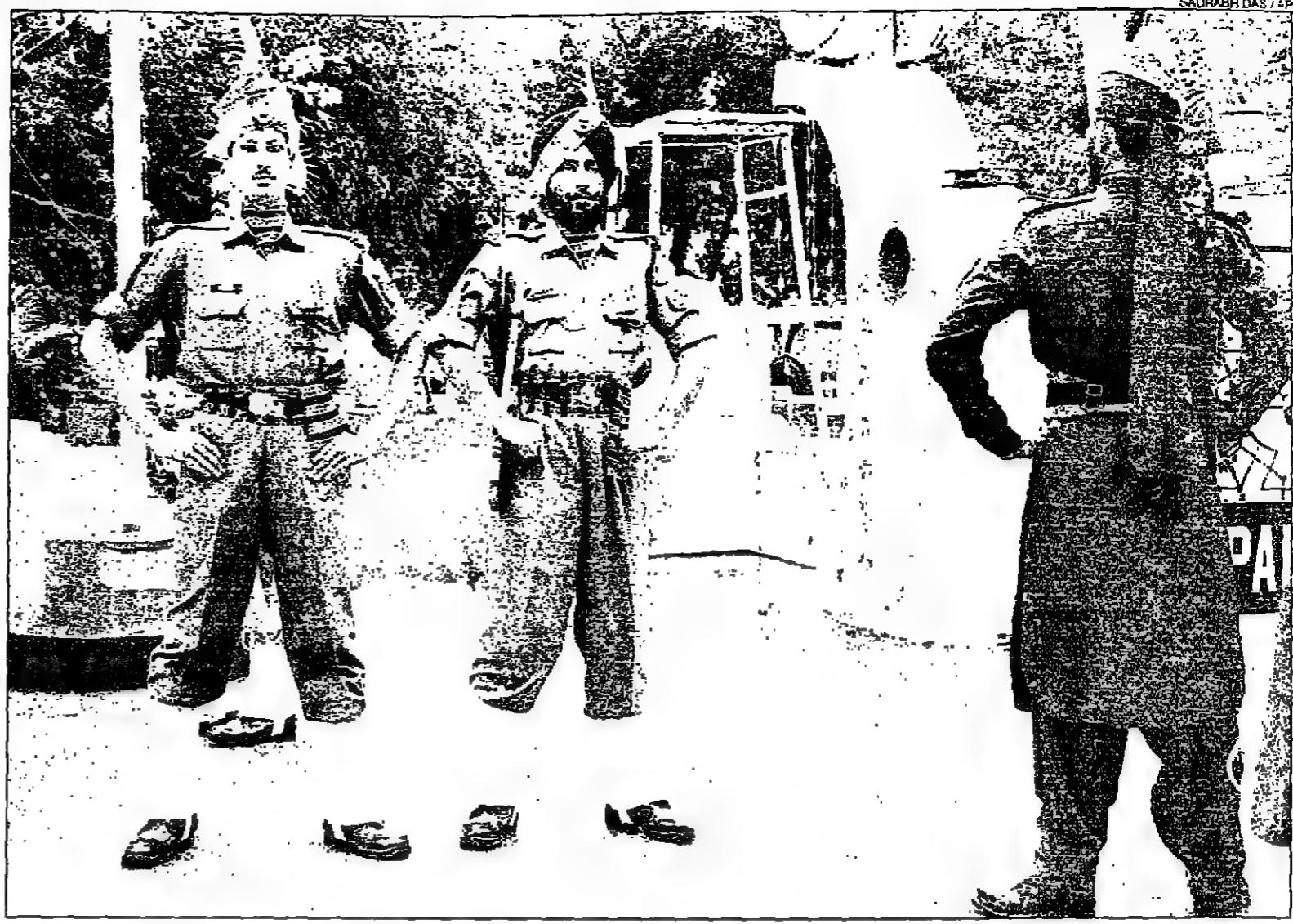
time, however, he said that Pakistan would continue to provide material and moral support to Kashmiri separatists fighting against India.

"Our real independence will come when Kashmir joins us," he declared.

Two of the three wars



Sharif issued appeal for peace with India



Indian soldiers, left, and their Pakistani counterparts stand guard at the border crossing at Wagha on the eve of the 50th anniversary of independence and partition. Every night families divided by the border gather on either side to catch a glimpse of each other.

Cries and handshakes mark ritual underlining pains of separation

EVERY sunset for almost 50 years a solemn flag-lowering ceremony has been performed at the only road linking India and Pakistan, in the heart of the divided flatlands of Punjab. It is a maudlin affair, watched always on both sides by crowds peering expectantly down the forbidden road.

They are curious about each other's unreachable country and about the tantalisingly close people with whom they share history, language, culture, food and families. They are the same people, albeit Hindu, Sikh and Muslim, and they smile and wave across the divide like old friends, which some are.

Relatives who have not met in half a century occasionally travel to the border at sunset, when the gates are opened briefly, to shout and wave across the 50-yard gap. Cameramen click, there is excitement. But it is a dreadful ritual, emphasising the human reality of partition, which created the greatest human migration in history and one of the biggest mass slaughters. Perhaps 500,000 died and millions were uprooted.

As the monsoon sky turns red, a soldier from each side marches briskly into the bit no man's land that demarcates the border, salutes, shakes hands and marches back. This always brings applause and a few tears to see a Pakistani and an Indian soldier express such mutual respect. The crowds seem frustrated, as if they want to move forward and meet, too.

President Bhutto bungled in this year's Pakistani general election by raging against India. Nawaz Sharif, her opponent, sensed the changed mood and pledged reconciliation. He won, she lost. The Kashmir card is not as effective as it once was.

Pakistanis care more about domestic problems than some vague, unconvincing notion of Islamic brotherhood with a reluctant Indian Kashmir.

Since becoming Prime Minister, Mr Sharif has allowed himself to be photographed in the embrace of Inder Kumar Gujral, his Indian counterpart, with whom he shares in English, Punjabi and Urdu, and with whom he shares a desire to open cross-border trade and begin the relationship anew.

If he has suddenly become not only politically possible but to seek

The Pakistani and Indian flags face each other on high poles on the boundary line. As they are lowered diagonally, two harmonised bugles sounding the retreat, they pass within a few feet of each other in the centre of the road — assuredly a deliberate gesture. The wind pushes them together, bringing applause. Fifty years of political separation have failed to dull a profound sense of human unity built up over 5,000 years of shared history.

The mood between India and Pakistan has changed, nor because of the politicians but in spite of them. A few years ago headline writers on both sides were still pouring out war-mongering clichés, politicians ranting about the country next door and state-controlled radio and television issued lies and half-truths.

This no longer happens, at least less so, because it no longer works. People are weary of it and do not believe it. Pakistani politicians and religious leaders can no longer convince people that the big neighbour wants to invade, that the Muslims of the Kashmir Valley crave unity with Pakistan, or that there is anything whatever to fear from an India that talks only of peace.

Benazir Bhutto bungled in this year's Pakistani general election by raging against India. Nawaz Sharif, her opponent, sensed the changed mood and pledged reconciliation. He won, she lost. The Kashmir card is not as effective as it once was.

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If he has suddenly become not only politically possible but to seek

friendship with India — up to a point — but politically wise.

India has promised more liberal visa regulations to allow Pakistanis to visit relatives and friends, a gesture Pakistan has yet to match. It is immensely difficult for people to get permission to cross the border, but many now do so vicariously through satellite television, providing unfettered knowledge of the neighbour and exposing the living rhetoric of some of their politicians.

Several years ago India was enraptured by a television adaptation of the *Mahabharata*, the Hindu epic. Border areas of Pakistan, where the signal could be picked up, practically came to a halt every Sunday when it was broadcast, demonstrating the supremacy of culture over the religious and political divide.

There are many such ties: Indian film music is enormously popular in Pakistan, the most watched films are *Bollywood* (spoken Hindi and Urdu are practically the same), and there is intense interest in each other's sporting achievements.

The countries remain culturally and humanly close, and there is a grassroots yearning to be closer. Fifty years after it was created, the border blurring, just a little.

□ Delhi: India yesterday accused Pakistan of enlisting China's help to develop nuclear warheads for medium-range missiles and also said its neighbour may have deployed M1 ballistic missiles near the Indian border.

In a written answer to a question in the upper house whether the Government is aware of Pakistan's developing nuclear warheads for its medium-range missiles with active technical assistance from China," Saleemul Haq Shervani, a junior Foreign Minister, replied: "Yes, sir."

When another member of Parliament asked if the Government had verified reports that Pakistan had deployed Chinese-built M1 missiles near the Indian border, Kamala Sinha, also a junior Foreign Minister, replied: "Government are aware of credible reports in this regard. The acquisition of missiles and related technologies by Pakistan is being continuously monitored and assessed."

It is believed to be the first time India had publicly and unambiguously accused China of supplying M1 missiles to Pakistan. The United States voiced deep concern over the alleged supply of Chinese missiles to Pakistan. Both Pakistan and China have denied reports of missile transfers. (Reuters)

FINAL NOTICE

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1. Full name of applicant: Eastern Energy Ltd
2. Operating address of the applicant: Medina House, 324-326 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 2AE
3. Registered Office: Wherstead Park, Wherstead, Ipswich, IP9 2AQ
4. Company's registered number: 3181389
5. Company's current directors: John Francis Devaney and Paul Colin Marsh
6. Details of shareholdings: Not applicable
7. Date from which licence is to take effect: 1 October 1997
8. Nature and situation of premises to be supplied: Designated Premises as defined in Condition 26 of the Standard Second Tier Supply Licence — that is to say premises in England and Wales at which the supply is taken wholly or mainly for domestic purposes or such premises at which the normal annual consumption of electricity will amount to no more than 12,000kWh.
9. Total number of premises to be supplied and aggregated estimated maximum demand: Set out in confidential business plan submitted to OFFER.
10. Description of how electricity is to be supplied: The electricity will be supplied using the distribution systems of other Public Electricity Suppliers.
11. Extent of powers to be given: No powers required.
12. Details of any licences held: None

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BANK OF SCOTLAND a friend for life

Advice for virtual romance blossoms

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

AS THE Internet replaces the singles bar as the dating hot spot of the 1990s, a clutch of cyberspace etiquette advisers has emerged, offering advice on "netiquette", or a code to regulate the conduct of online romance and courtship.

Numerous books have been published, all suggesting ways in which Internet flirtation can be transferred securely to "real life".

Cyber-savvies have also emerged, who pontificate from their own websites on risks and pleasures of flirting *a la modern*. There is no doubt that they provide a useful service. The Internet dating services carry tens of thousands of "dated profiles", and Net liaisons are, with increasing frequency, leading to actual relationships.

The more popular advisers have acquired a cult following. Carla Sinclair, who styles herself as "Net Chick", gets hundreds of hits a day from overeager Net romances and eager online Jolts.

A red-haired beauty who is not shy about posting her own picture on the Internet, she is the undisputed queen of netiquette, helping thousands to navigate their way to a safe and fulfilling online relationship.

Netiquette experts suggest a number of precautions. The first "don't" is straightforward: do not reveal too much on your first cyber-date, especially telephone numbers or home addresses.

Internet daters who wish to "go flesh" — as the current expression would have it — are urged always to meet first in a public place. "If your potential cybermate is coming from another city or from out of town," Ms. Sinclair advises, "he/she should stay in a hotel, not your place."

Leading article, page 17

Fossil footprints open way to row on 'genetic Eve'

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON



THE oldest-known footprints of a modern human, dating back 117,000 years, have been found on the shores of a South African lagoon.

Very possibly female, the fossils could spark a scientific debate over whether they are traces of the "genetic Eve".

"These footprints are from the earliest of anatomically modern people," said Lee Berger, an American paleoanthropologist at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, who announced the discovery yesterday at the National Geographic Society in Washington.

David Roberts, the British-born South African geologist who actually uncovered the three footprints, said: "The chances of finding something like this are millions to one."

Unlike footprints unearthed in Tanzania, which were 3.6 million years old, the newly found ones were made by a human with whom we have a direct link. Physically she was the same as us, though not as developed mentally, walking upright with jutting jaw, high forehead and without the prominent eyebrow ridges of earlier man.

Mr Berger admitted it was highly unlikely that the actual

the footprints with sand. They were then buried and gradually turned into stone.

The footprints are 8½ in long. The big toe, ball, arch and heel are all clear as the walker crunched down the wet surface. Since the discovery last year, nearby rocks have yielded Stone Age tools thought to have been crafted by the same people who walked the dunes.

The discoveries provide evidence of anatomically modern humans in an area of Africa that is believed to be the cradle of our ancestors. How well these humans could think is debated by scientists. They did not bury their dead nor leave traces of cave paintings as humans did 50,000 to 75,000 years later, Mr Berger said.

Ochre pigment has been found near the lagoon that are up to 125,000 years old and scientists believe they were used by the early humans.

The earlier human footprints found in Africa were left by pre-human apemen from a far distant branch of our family tree.

Summing up his research, Mr Berger said: "An important message comes to us from the lagoon footprints. As diverse as the world is, as different as we look, we are an incredibly young species and all of us Africans."



Footprints from the oldest anatomically modern human, found in South Africa. The 117,000-year-old prints were found by a British-born geologist

WORLD SUMMARY

Clinton's gospel on religion

Washington: President Clinton yesterday guaranteed the right of government employees to express religious views at work, provided they do not coerce colleagues to join them in worship (Ian Brodie writes).

His guidelines will let workers engage in religious expression as long as they do not "unduly interfere" with the functioning of the workplace.

Torture charge

New York: A white policeman was charged here for torturing a Haitian immigrant in the locked toilet of a police station, sexually assaulting the man with a toilet plunger and causing critical injuries.

Fatal raids

Mombasa: Armed men raided two police stations in this Kenyan port, stole firearms and killed 13 people, including six police officers. It was not known if the attack was criminal or political. (AP)

Death sentences

Bujumbura: A Burundian court sentenced to death 14 people accused of taking part in ethnic massacres in 1993, state-run radio said. Thirteen others were jailed for 30 years and three acquitted. (AP)

Killer turned in

New York: A Long Island man who said he was inspired to commit a random murder by the film *Natural Born Killers* has been turned in by his father, who feared a family member would be next.

Inkatha blow

Johannesburg: Walter Fenge, a senior aide to Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, has defected to the ANC, just days after the party pulled out of peace negotiations.

Judge accused

Lima: Elba Minaya Calle, who was named in 1996 as Peru's Judge of the Year, faces trial for terrorism after allowing the release of a woman held as a suspected left-wing guerrilla supporter. (Reuters)

Judge confirms jury's death sentence on McVeigh

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

TIMOTHY MCVEIGH was formally sentenced to death yesterday for the bombing that killed 168 people two years ago in Oklahoma City. His lawyer said that he would appeal.

As he was required to do by federal law, Judge Richard Matsch, a US District judge, confirmed the jury sentence handed down to McVeigh by an Oklahoma City jury on June 13. He said: "It is the judgment of the court that the defendant, Timothy James McVeigh, is sentenced to death on each of the 11 counts of the indictment."

McVeigh, 29, almost ebullient be-

fore the judge spoke, turned ashen-faced as the sentence was pronounced. He then made a brief, gnomic statement, quoting from a dissenting opinion from 1928, penned by the legendary Justice Louis Brandeis in *Olmstead v United States*, a wire-tapping case. McVeigh said:

"Our Government is the potent, the omnipresent teacher. For good or ill, it teaches the whole people by its example. That's all I have. Your Honour."

He did not plead for his life or admit to any role in the bombing which also injured 500 people.

Although his statement in court was clipped and brief, McVeigh had

earlier given a more voluble account of himself to *The Buffalo Evening News*, a small newspaper published in the area of New York state where he was born.

In the interview, McVeigh attacked Stephen Jones, his lawyer, accusing him of professional incompetence.

Although Mr Jones said yesterday that he had filed an appeal against the death sentence, McVeigh told *The Buffalo Evening News* that the attorney should be dropped from handling the appeal.

He said: "The truth is, this guy only succeeded in getting the death sentence and now he doesn't want to let go. He screwed up badly, but I'm

not bitter. I only want him off my appeal."

McVeigh said that Mr Jones, who was appointed by the court to represent him, told him "lies". He would not, however, explain what those "lies" were: "It's for Congress, the Bar, and the judiciary to investigate and discover. You would not believe some of the things that have occurred in this case."

"It's a cultural clash between us,"

McVeigh added. "Jones would be a politician and I'd be a statesman."

Yesterday Mr Jones described his task of representing McVeigh as "an onerous, but honourable, assignment". He said: "Today is a solemn

day of judgment to follow through on the jury's verdict." He said he filed a notice of appeal yesterday morning.

Victims in the courtroom sat stone-faced and some stared angrily at McVeigh made his comments.

During the trial, survivors, victims' relatives and others criticised the decorated Gulf War veteran because he remained emotionless during distressing testimony about the lives lost. When jurors condemned McVeigh to die, he did not even blink.

"I tried to be a total gentleman in the courtroom when people called me a coward," McVeigh said in the newspaper interview.

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Fakes – the artifice behind the artefact

In their painstaking research into the trade in antiquities, Dr David Gill and Dr Christopher Chippindale highlight an aspect of the trade not generally taken on board by non-archaeologists – the close link between illegally excavated and smuggled gods, and widespread faking. According to the thermoluminescence laboratory in Oxford, some 40 per cent of antiquities sent in for testing are of modern manufacture.

Few collectors are willing to acknowledge that some of the objects in their possession are, possibly, fake. In the *Glories of the Past* exhibition, held at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1990, and featuring the private collection of Shelby White and Leon Levy, one object, a copper statuette of a male figure, was described as "found at Jezzine in central Lebanon". True enough, but nowhere was there any mention that an associated figure in the British Museum was featured in the museum's own exhibition *Fake? The Art of Deception*. Twice it was adjudged inauthentic, once genuine. Had it been excavated under archaeological supervision, there would have been no doubt.

Much more important, however, is the fact that several categories of antiquities are known *only* from unprovenanced objects. Here we shall focus on Cycladic objects – from the islands in the Aegean Sea. Since it is hard to tell forged and real Cycladic figures apart (available scientific tests do not work with stone) it is entirely possible that whole areas of this field are forged.

Once Cycladic figures were about the length of a forearm. After they became popular in the salerooms, however, bigger statues began to turn up on the market, fetching higher prices. But since none has a secure provenance, and since science cannot tell a fake from the real thing, how can we be sure that *any* of these larger and more expensive statues are real? The answer is: we cannot. The same applies to male figures. Where Cycladic figures can be gendered, they are female, for no male figure

has ever been found with a secure provenance – thus all male figures may be fake.

The high proportion of unprovenanced and recently surfaced antiquities in a collection is one measure of the damage, for which the commercially minded salerooms and unthinking collectors must bear some responsibility. But Dr Gill – a senior lecturer in the classics and ancient history department at the University of Wales, Swansea, and Dr Chippindale, senior assistant curator at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge and editor of the journal *Antiquity* – have studied the unprovenanced objects offered for sale and acquired by modern collectors, and have identified at least five ways in which the archaeological context of these artefacts are "lost". Taken together, such losses amount to a powerful indictment of collecting.

How do we know clay and marble 'idols' weren't just toys?

One form of loss has already been described – the spread of unprovenanced antiquities, which, allied to the massive jumble of fakes, means that whole categories of object may be spurious. That apart, potentially the most damaging loss is the large number of objects that are, or are supposed to be, found in groups. In the George Ortiz Collection, for example, two Corinthian terracottas, a hare and a cornet (dancer), are "said to have been found in the same tomb", allegedly in Etruria, modern Tuscany, in Italy. The site of the find might explain the juxtaposition of hare and cornet, which, on the face of it, is not at all an obvious pairing and may have an unusual meaning. Without such information – and none has yet been published – the whole exercise is futile.

In another case, two bronze statuettes of Heracles in the *Crossroads* collection shown

up on any of the Greek islands. To call it an "egg", thereby implying intention on the part of the artist and a role for the object, perhaps in religious practices, is entirely unwarranted, archaeological-ly speaking.

A second common effect of wish fulfilment is to see all clay and marble figures as "idols", interesting statuettes that played a part in mysterious cults. But they may just as easily have been toys – less "interesting" and, therefore, less valuable.

In these ways scholarship is devasted, and the role of the collector takes precedence over that of the disinterested, and better informed, scholars. In effect, these are sloppy forms of intellectual analysis.

But the best example of the way our understanding of the past has been distorted by the values of the auction houses and the activities of rich and not-very-knowledgeable collectors (some of whom, nevertheless, like to pose as scholars) is the whole concept of Cycladic figures. Already plagued by fakes and copies, the collecting and saleroom framework of "art" is being imposed on an archaeology that may have no relation whatsoever to that structure.

The most ludicrous example of this is the practice of attributing this or that Cycladic figure to this or that "master". Already we have sculptures alleged to be by the "Douras Master", the "Berlin Master", the "Fitzwilliam Master" and the "Copenhagen Master". In one of Christie's catalogues, there is even a reference to a statue being "in the style of the Schuster Master".

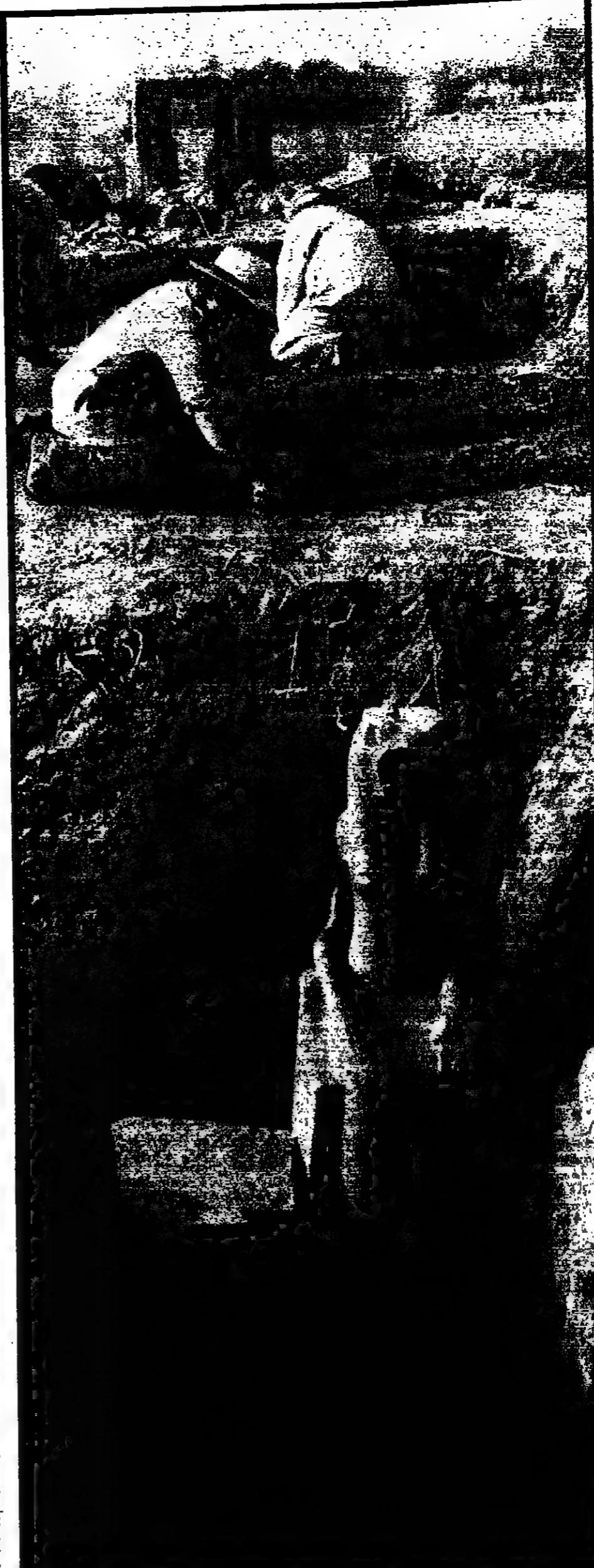
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The location of a find can be crucial to solving archaeological conundrums

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They reserve special criticism for the Fitzwilliam Museum. They reveal that, ahead of its exhibition *Crossroads of Asia* in 1992, they wrote to its

director, requesting assurances that the many Gandharan objects in the show were not secure archaeologically, and that 88 per cent had no provenance whatsoever before the show. The matter was then raised with the ethical committee of the Museums Association, but it failed to address the issue effectively.

In their forthcoming paper, Dr Gill and Dr Chippindale write: "It seems that in allowing the [Crossroads] exhibition to proceed, the Fitzwilliam has publicly endorsed the display of antiquities which can reasonably be expected to have been looted. They seem to be taking the view that so long as the objects are beautiful, it does not matter that the original archaeological context has been lost and can never be recovered. Such a view merely serves to encourage the market and private collectors to continue the destruction."

This stance marks a new development among archaeologists – a willingness, a militancy almost, to use their most powerful weapon, scholarship itself, to engage in battle with the collectors, the auction houses and the dealers, as well as the looters.

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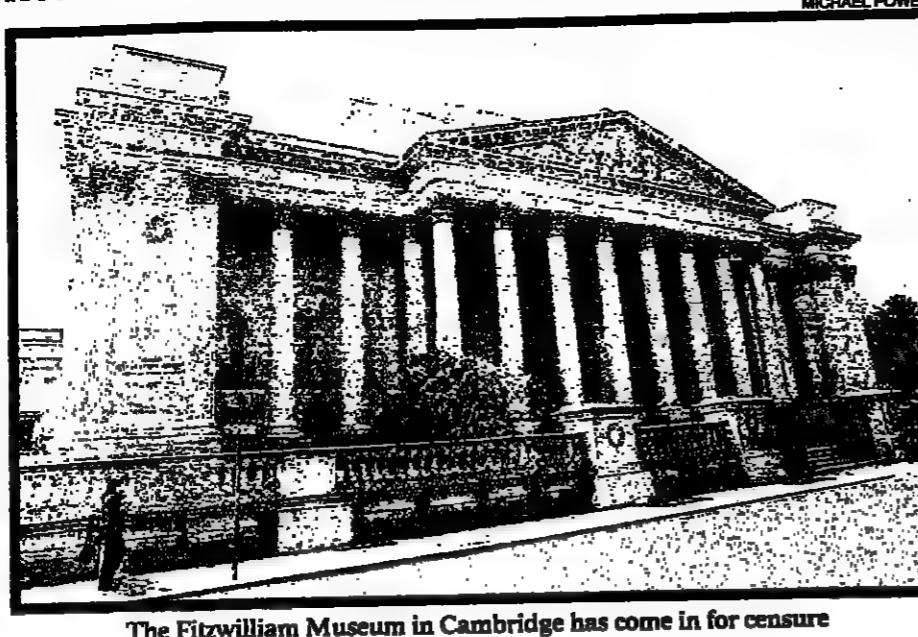
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Day Two: A high proportion of antiquities in private collections and museums are probably not ancient at all, writes Peter Watson



The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge has come in for censure

has ever been found with a secure provenance – thus all male figures may be fake.

The high proportion of unprovenanced and recently surfaced antiquities in a collection is one measure of the damage, for which the commercially minded salerooms and unthinking collectors must bear some responsibility.

But Dr Gill – a senior lecturer in the classics and ancient history department at the University of Wales, Swansea, and Dr Chippindale, senior assistant curator at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge and editor of the journal *Antiquity* – have studied the unprovenanced objects offered for sale and acquired by modern collectors, and have identified at least five ways in which the archaeological context of these artefacts are "lost". Taken together, such losses amount to a powerful indictment of collecting.

One form of loss has already been described – the spread of unprovenanced antiquities, which, allied to the massive jumble of fakes, means that whole categories of object may be spurious. That apart, potentially the most damaging loss is the large number of objects that are, or are supposed to be, found in groups. In the George Ortiz Collection, for example, two Corinthian terracottas, a hare and a cornet (dancer), are "said to have been found in the same tomb", allegedly in Etruria, modern Tuscany, in Italy. The site of the find might explain the juxtaposition of hare and cornet, which, on the face of it, is not at all an obvious pairing and may have an unusual meaning. Without such information – and none has yet been published – the whole exercise is futile.

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How do we know clay and marble 'idols' weren't just toys?

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up on any of the Greek islands. To call it an "egg", thereby implying intention on the part of the artist and a role for the object, perhaps in religious practices, is entirely unwarranted, archaeological-ly speaking.

A second common effect of wish fulfilment is to see all clay and marble figures as "idols", interesting statuettes that played a part in mysterious cults. But they may just as easily have been toys – less "interesting" and, therefore, less valuable.

In these ways scholarship is devasted, and the role of the collector takes precedence over that of the disinterested, and better informed, scholars. In effect, these are sloppy forms of intellectual analysis.

But the best example of the way our understanding of the past has been distorted by the values of the auction houses and the activities of rich and not-very-knowledgeable collectors (some of whom, nevertheless, like to pose as scholars) is the whole concept of Cycladic figures. Already plagued by fakes and copies, the collecting and saleroom framework of "art" is being imposed on an archaeology that may have no relation whatsoever to that structure.

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Now the smart are well roomed

Your interior is now more important than your exterior: decorating is set to knock clothes from the pinnacle of fashion, says Nick Foulkes

Much along the lines of such fashion dictats as "brown is the new black", it seems to be emerging that interiors are the new clothes, and houses are the new fashion.

When the British Retail Consortium asked Britons how they would be spending their building society windfalls, 17 per cent said on furniture and carpets. Heals says its underlying sales are up 18 per cent. Indeed, such is this smart metropolitan furniture retailer's optimism that it is setting up out of town.

In newsgagents the traditionally dominant swath of women's titles seems under threat from an ever-increasing array of homes magazines.

"In the general marketplace of magazines, the ones that are to do with homes are selling excessively well. They are carrying buckets more advertising: as a proposition they are very successful," says IPC Magazines' Sally O'Sullivan.

O'Sullivan's enthusiastic observations about this sector of the magazine business are probably not unrelated to her position as Editor-in-Chief of no fewer than four interiors titles: *Ideal Home*, *Homes & Gardens*, *Country Homes & Interiors* and *Homes & Ideas*. But it seems her enthusiasm is supported by rising circulation and increased advertising revenue.

"It used to be that women got turned on by lipstick and Lycra, and now it is sofas and sinks," says O'Sullivan in best soundbite mode. "It is not confined to one sector of class or age; it is hitting women in their 20s or 30s. Women tend to turn to certain victories when all else fails, but it used not to be the case that women in their 20s and 30s bought a new candlestick with as much pleasure as a new nail varnish."

Nor is it just glossy magazines that are responding in the cries of twenty-something girls and middle-aged windfall recipients clamouring for news on the latest wood-effect floorings and light fittings. On the nation's television screens, the only programmes that seem to be challenging football's hegemony are those that involve interior design. Whether it is a scholarly look at the social history of DIY, or a tabloid-style makeover of some ghastly suburban semi-

—performed against the clock and within a minuscule budget: it is hard to doubt the importance with which interiors are viewed by the programmes.

I have always said that interiors influence fashion," says the prophetic society decorator Nicky Haslam, adding on an historical note, "during the 19th century, the way chairs were made dictated how people dressed."

Slightly more recently, Haslam has noticed that the social stock of the decorator has been rising. If hairdressers, in the mould of Warren Beatty in *Shampoo*, were the people around whom beautiful people gathered in the Sixties and early Seventies, and if fashion designers along the lines of Halston and Versace were the social engines that drove the late 70s and the 80s, then it is now the turn of the interior decorator.

Among the names mentioned by Haslam are Georges Grange and Peter Marino. And, if prompted, Haslam will admit, "my picture appears in things like

Bystander in the *Times* much more frequently these days."

However, Haslam does not think that that the new social prominence of the interior designer will result in fashion victims being replaced by interior-design victims. "I don't think people will become slaves to decoration. It takes longer for them to add their own input," he explains.

Although people can be well dressed by the right decorator, Haslam asserts: "You can't be well 'roomed' by the right decorator, because you have to make it your own. Rooms can look sterile, whereas clothes because they are wearing and have your face in them, aren't."

I may well be that people these days wish to express themselves through taps rather than frocks, but the big fashion design houses are not about to free their slaves and emancipate their serfs. Fashion designers are intent on extending their grip on our lives by moving into our bedrooms and on to our dining tables.

Mulberry, a company that for years was content to sell us belts and bags, now feels it is important to fog us an all-round lifestyle package of ersatz Englishness. Denim



Nesting is new: interiors magazines fill newsagents, decorating programmes vie with football for television supremacy, and home designers are the new lifestyle gurus

may be all very well for jeans, but as any devotee of Ralph Lauren knows, this sturdy blue fabric is at its best when made into a tablecloth. And if you can't afford a Christian Lacroix outfit, then at least you can share in the dream by spending £34 on a quartet of Christian's lacy, sorbet-coloured napkins.

Sue Crewe, who as Editor of *House & Garden* enjoys the same sort of omnipotence in the interior decoration world that the Editor of *Vogue* does when it comes to frocks and shoes, welcomes the arrival of interiors by fashion designers only cautiously. "The designers themselves are aware that we want to extend their influence into our homes."

Crewe believes that people are attracted to interior decoration because they are bored with the homogenous nature of shopping for clothes. From Fifth Avenue to Hong Kong's Central District — and in every major departure lounge shopping mall in between — one sees nothing but the same clothes by the same names.

The gospel according to Crewe is that the home is "an area in which we can express how we feel about ourselves in a way that works the permutations inside one's house infinite."

"As the world gets busier, noisier, fuller and more dangerous, our houses are sanctuaries. They don't have to be expensive. We can express creativity and idiosyncrasy relatively inexpensively."

As well as being somewhere to go home after work and to shelter us from the elements, the house is increasingly being perceived as a stage set upon which we can integrate the life

we lead with the one we dream of living.

Attitudes to decoration are much more catholic. A couple of decades ago the British regarded decorators with the same sort of suspicion that they reserved for foreign food and men who used beauty products. Nowadays these things are no longer taboo.

"There is a wonderful diversity," says Crewe, "I have never seen such a range of styles and tastes. There is no so-called good or correct style."

It seems that anything goes in interior decorating... well almost anything. Occasionally Crewe will come across something that prompts her to say:

"It would have been all right five years ago, but it is a bit dated now."

Among the things that are showing their age are tapestry-covered ottomans: Crewe says oriental is big these days. Architectural prints are being retired in favour of 17th-century garden designs. Deep fringes on curtains are showing

their age; these days fashion-leading windows are clothed in linen Roman blinds.

Linen is also high on Nicky Haslam's list of current looks: he much prefers linen carpets to coir matting, which he feels is too early Nineties. And as for magnolia? Remember you heard it here first — warm grey is the new magnolia.

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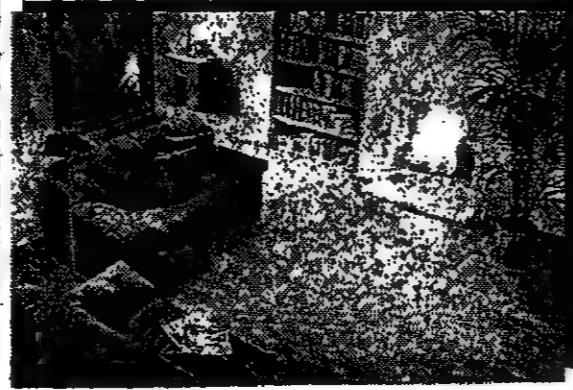


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The teachers' party is put to the test

John Lloyd wonders where Labour stands in the culture war

In none of its high ambitions for the country it governs is new Labour so exposed as in education. That which has been announced as the passion of a premiership cannot suffer neglect or indifference: it must be, and be seen to be, privileged over all else.

Labour is committed, even more than the Conservatives were, to improving the educational standards of the masses. It made much of what the Tories had already accepted: that by international standards the standards of the educational elite were high, but those of the generality of school leavers low. It thus wants to push more people through more courses at every level than ever before – and it also wants standards to improve at the same time.

It is an open question as to whether it can do both. The A-level results out yesterday showed an improvement for the sixteenth straight year. Critics continue to protest that criteria have been lowered. A study, published on Wednesday from the Higher Education Funding Council, showed that a number of universities – especially those that had until recently been polytechnics – have high failure rates, or relatively low intellectual standards, or both. The polytechnics want to bring in students particularly from the classes and races in society presently underrepresented in tertiary education: these students often come from homes and areas where intellectual pursuits are ignored, even penalised. Who can deny that the new universities should do this? Who can deny that the students will be more difficult to teach? *

But the admission of ever-greater numbers with ever-larger teaching difficulties will not attract commensurate extra funds. The logic of the two-year spending freeze and of the five-year income tax freeze lays its icy hand over education as much as over any other public expenditure area. Existing resources must be better used: but so they are, as the numbers of students in further education rise out of proportion to the increase in teachers or capital stock.

Educational reform in Britain – especially in England – always takes place against the (usually) unspoken background of a division between public and private deeper than that in any other advanced state. Educating 7 per cent of Britain's children, the private sector takes over 40 per cent of all A levels and over 45 per cent of all Oxbridge entrants. Privately educated pupils almost all (more than 90 per cent) go to college, just over one quarter of state school kids do. The private schools get these results because they are good: as the former Tory MP George Walden puts it in his book *We Should Know Better* (1996), "The difficulty about them is no longer so much their exclusivity – based today less on birth than on money – as their undeniable quality."

Labour will not abolish them: but it will end the Assisted Places Scheme, which will have a perverse effect of increasing their exclusivity.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.

Royal tour

THERE is poison in Lower Pilsley, the Derbyshire village shaken by the recent visit of Diana, Princess of Wales, and Dodi Fayed to see Rita Rogers, the local psychic. On Wednesday night, Nick Warren, the stepfather of Emma Radford,

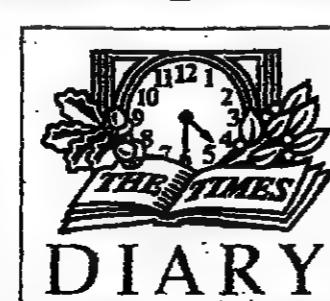
11. the young girl who had photographed the Princess's visit, and the man who negotiated the sale of the pictures was given an earful by Mrs Rogers's daughter in his local.

"She launched herself across the bar and came at me screaming about how I had ruined her mother's life," said Warren. "It was just about the last thing I needed."

There is always the money as compensation. Warren says he has been promised £50,000 by *The Mirror* and 50 per cent of any syndication rights, which should mount up.

Yesterday, as part of the picture deal, Miss Radford, her mother, and some of Miss Radford's friends were touring London with £100 spending money each and accompanied by *The Mirror's* royal photographer. They even went to Harrods, where they met Mohamed Al Fayed, who gave Miss Radford a teddy bear.

Miss Radford's grandmother was unimpressed. "She thought that if he is one of the richest men in the world," says Warren, "a £4 teddy was a bit mean."



● The royal reporters gathered at Heathrow yesterday to follow Dodi Fayed on his working trip to Los Angeles. When the time came for the flight to leave, still no Dodi. What should the hacks do? They were reluctant to pass up on their first-class tickets to LA. Then one of them said "Maybe that psychic he went to see with Diana told him this flight was cursed." The party chicked in their tickets and turned back to London.

Loyal fan

LABOUR'S dour Social Security Unit will be cheered by the arrival of Kate Hoey, MP for Vauxhall, who has just been made PPS to Frank Field, Social Security Minister.



Does prosperity beckon for Africa at last? Or is there no end to its poverty, wickedness and despair?

The trail of skeletons along desecrated highways... the lassitude and hopelessness of emaciated survivors crowded into refugee camps... the mounds of corpses. Africa has been betrayed from within."

Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian author who wrote that, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986. Soyinka has moved on in his mind from Africa's colonial past, and I, too, intend to dwell on what has happened since Empire. I wrote recently about Africa's political degradation. But this cannot be separated from the ruin of the continent's economic fabric.

Some two thirds of Africa's people remain subsistence farmers and the first test of the continent's record in realising its potential must be the exploitation of its huge agricultural resources. Food production per capita has fallen by 20 per cent since 1976. Though it fluctuates with good and bad harvests, the underlying rate is still falling.

And people die. Across much of Africa, life expectancies are barely half what they are in the West. Malnutrition affects more than 20 per cent of the population in 36 countries. There has been a widespread deterioration of health care in the five years to 1990 access to basic health services declined by 17 per cent against examinations in English grammar and literature at age 14 seems to have won: these tests will not be introduced this year as the previous administration had planned. State school teachers prefer coursework, which they believe gives a rounded view of the pupil, not a quick snapshot of his or her ability to perform at speed and under pressure. Labour is clearly split on this: despite Baroness Blackstone's derisive in *The Times* yesterday, the Government is not ruling out a baccalaureate-style final examination, or at least a broader and more testing version of the present A-level system.

Can all of this change be accommodated? And can it be accommodated without widening further the distance between the well and badly educated? New Labour has to face a deep philosophical divide within the teaching profession and the academy between those who see culture as a "canon" of great works and advances in understanding – and those who regard this approach as the product of an elitist view of the world and a perpetuation of it. British culture wars are as yet a pale echo of the sulphurous engagements on American campuses – but as we push more and more students through universities, these conflicts will get hotter.

Bose is a curious choice. His Japanese-backed army has no substantial achievement to its name, and in British history books he is usually dismissed as a jackbooted Fascist puppet. However, in India he fulfils a crucial emotional demand as the one figure in the freedom movement who dared to stand up to the British with force of arms. His death in 1945 leaves him untainted by the disasters of partition. For a country in crisis, Bose represents strong leadership.

Meanwhile, the British Government is responding to the anniversary of Indian independence with plans to erect a memorial commemorating the millions of Indian soldiers who fought with the Allies in the two world wars. The National Army Museum is holding an exhibition in their honour.

While British television and newspapers are having a full-scale Indiafest in the sub-continent enthusing is more muted. It is said that one American company, PepsiCo, has spent more money in India on commemorating the jubilee than the Indian Government. There is some bafflement in Britain about this. But

Helping the spider out of the bathtub

Tales of Africa's suffering are legion. It is hard to know how many exaggerate. Yet where people live on the edge statistics are of limited value for charting real lives, and personal impressions count for something. My own – comparing recent travels with boyhood memories – is that the day-to-day life of the rural poor has changed little, except that fear of famine, epidemics, cruelty and war has grown. In the towns, conditions are much worse. Millions have drifted there, and there are neither jobs nor services nor framework of law to sustain them.

Since 1965, Africa's average *per capita* income has halved from 14 per cent of industrial countries' levels to 7 per cent now. The 47 sub-Saharan countries contribute just 2.4 per cent of global GDP – nearly half of it from South Africa and Nigeria. In 1995, 15 African countries managed a growth rate of more than 5 per cent, yet with Africa's population set to double to more than a billion within 30 years, that is about the rate required simply to maintain abysmal living standards.

I said abysmal: 210 million people in sub-Saharan Africa survive on less than \$1 a day. To be classified as "wealthy", an individual needs an income of \$460. In the mid-70s, 11 sub-Saharan countries were "middle income" in World Bank terms. By the start of the Nineties only six were.

Here we should pause. Optimists now claim that Africa has turned an economic corner. The number of countries whose economies are

shrinking has dropped; the average growth rate is now 5 per cent. Ghana is looking up at present; heavens knows it is from a near-rutinous past. Uganda has climbed back – if not to the prosperity of her colonial days – at least some way from the horrors that engulfed her in the Seventies and Eighties. So are my analysis and pessimism out of date?

Sadly I suspect not. The price of oil rose by some 28 per cent in 1995-96 and Africa is a large producer. Just before that, a substantial upturn in the world's non-oil commodity prices began. Africa exports little but prima-

er earnings that line the pockets of a corrupt minority. The World Bank figures indicate growth, but for the poor it doesn't feel that way. Diamonds have given Botswana one of the world's fastest-growing economies. Yet, though without enemies, she has a growing appetite for heavy arms purchases. Botswana has just bought 86 tanks and the tiny nation's army is now 10,000 strong.

To be fair, I accept that the sickening falls in economic growth recorded through the Eighties also relate, in part, to falling commodity prices. Living standards drifted rather than tumbled. But the continent's share of world trade has fallen from 3 per cent in the mid-Fifties to 1 per cent now. Sub-Saharan Africa's share of inward investment is not tumbling but sliding down from 3 per cent in the early Nineties to 2.4 per cent now.

The slide has coincided with a relentless surge in foreign contributions. Africa has become a cash junkie. In the decade to 1990, over \$100 billion was provided 70 per cent of capital spending in sub-Saharan Africa. Of the World Bank's 40 basket cases for debt, 33 are African. In 1992, Africa's debts totalled \$80 billion. Despite endless rounds of rescheduling, they rose to \$20 billion by 1994. Aid meant for development is being used to repay debts, yet Africa has been paying only half its dues. The \$13 billion repaid annually by African governments represents more than double their spending on health and primary education. Uganda spends each year about \$30 per

capita on debt repayment. Per capita spending on health is \$15.

By contrast, real foreign investment has been declining. The estimate for 1995 (\$2 billion) was down a third from the previous year and a fraction of what was sent as aid. The pitiful figure for investment looks even more dismal when you consider that most of it was aimed not at commercial or industrial development but at the exploitation of natural resources in countries with oil or minerals.

Twenty-five years ago, most African countries were richer than most of the Asian nations we now call "tiger" economies. In 1970, the Pearson Commission, examining South Korea's plight, commented that this was a country doomed to perpetual dependence on foreign aid with no possibility of achieving a high growth rate from its own resources. Within three years, South Korea could be richer than the UK.

At whatever moment you chose during these past 30 years, it has always been possible to single out a couple of countries and say: "Ah, but these are showing the way. They have learnt the lessons of the past and are moving ahead." We said it of Zimbabwe, of Malawi, of Kenya, of the Ivory Coast. Now we say it of Uganda and Ghana. Some believe it of South Africa, too. I am still filled with foreboding for South Africa. I hope the optimists are right this time but they never were before. Watch spiders in a bathtub, and at any one point a couple have always made a little more progress up the sides than the rest.

How to get out of the bathtub? If my proposals on this page next Friday appear shocking, I hope the picture here painted shocks you, too. We have grown numb by Africa's despair. It is time to wake up to the wickedness of the status quo, register the despair, and consider desperate remedies.

A passage to normality

The most hopeful fact about India is that it goes on functioning, says Patrick French



the reasons are not hard to understand. The end of imperial rule is seen by many as a false dawn, when the promises that politicians had made were instantly broken.

What occurred on the night of August 14, 1947, was not a mass liberation of the Indian people, but a transfer of power from one English-speaking elite to another. It was accompanied by a reciprocal massacre between Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims in which nearly one million people were murdered and many millions more made homeless. This slaughter and displacement was not inevitable. It was a manufactured tragedy brought about by the cynicism, incompetence and misjudgments of British Congress and Muslim League politicians during the Thirties and Forties.

For the older generation, memories

of 1947 are a cause for grief. It was a time when families were ripped apart, and the joy of throwing off centuries of foreign rule was tempered by the loss of a united country. Yet despite today's hostile rhetoric on the still unresolved issue of Kashmir, many people in both countries do not see the rupture as absolute. In a poll by the Indian news magazine *Outlook*, only 36 per cent of respondents thought the partition of India had been necessary. An astonishing 58 per cent favoured the reuniting of the two countries, which goes against the received wisdom in Islamabad and Delhi.

Many of the politicians who engineered the agreement of 1947 went on to take control. In India, Congress managed to keep an almost unbroken hold on power for more than 40

years, culminating in the premiership of Nehru's ineffectual grandson, Rajiv Gandhi. In Pakistan, the founder of the nation, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, was dead by 1948, and his legacy was destroyed within a decade by military dictatorship.

After independence, India's new rulers inherited the name and the administrative structure of the British, and moved rapidly to integrate the hundreds of feudal princely states, and India became the world's largest democracy. Pakistan, meanwhile, had to cope with a desperate lack of infrastructure.

In the early 1990s, there was a surge of excitement about India's mild economic reforms. Yet while the neighbouring economies of South-East Asia have managed tigerish double-digit annual growth rates, India has remained a slothful eco-

This is, however, only one aspect of the story. India is clearly in a far better state than its neighbours, Burma, Tibet and Afghanistan. It has a guaranteed freedom of expression that would be unthinkable in China. Democracy is entrenched, and the country is no longer scarred by the famines that afflicted it under British rule. Through its very diversity, India has an enormous inner strength.

It is a cliché to say that a nation has been betrayed by its leaders, but in the case of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, it is undeniably true. The most positive and optimistic fact about the sub-continent is that it continues to function, despite the antics of its politicians. Here in Europe, assailed by reports of riots, shuns and monsoons, it is easy to forget the normality of much of Indian life. Every day, millions of people go to school, go to work, eat normally and go to sleep in safety. That, in itself, is worth celebrating.

Patrick French is the author of *Liberty or Death: India's Journey to Independence* and *Division* (HarperCollins).



In her first outing as a director, Miss Solti, 23, an Oxford graduate, is directing a production of *The Love of the Nightingale* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. The artists Andrew Logue and Piero Jackson, Jade Jagger's former squeeze, will be doing the artwork.

Miss Solti says she has received every encouragement from her father, an active 83, who "even chose some of the music for the play". Nonetheless, it is probably just as well he is in Italy. His daughter is promising to create "a sexually provocative world, in which passion and desire are impossible to resist".

● My report (Much Ado, August 8) on the party held near Siena, Tuscany, by Ned and Catherine Durham, the son and daughter-in-law of Lord Lambton, was exaggerated. Lord Lambton received no complaints about the guests' conduct, and he did not "boot" the Durhams off the estate afterwards. They stayed on until the end of their holiday there. My apologies for any embarrassment.

Stone me

SHARON STONE, the Hollywood

actress, has discovered a previously unpublished manuscript by the writers Aldous Huxley and Christopher Isherwood. She became intrigued by the missing work after she came across a reference to it while reading Isherwood's recently published *Diarist*.

She contacted Huxley's widow and between them they found the manuscript to *Jacob's Hand*, written on onion-skin paper, the story of a ranch worker whose hands have the power to heal. The publishing rights have now been bought and there is even talk of a film being made in which Miss

Isherwood and Huxley experts are sceptical. "The play is appalling," says Peter Parker, who is currently writing a biography of Isherwood. "They must be bonkers if they are going to publish it." Isherwood and Huxley wrote it together in the 1950s and a version was made into a radio play. It is the most extraordinary story – Holly Wood gush, adds Parker. "Coincidentally, the heroine is called Sharon."

P.H.S

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen will open the Visitors' Centre at Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1, on Wednesday, October 29, to mark the 75th Anniversary of the foundation of the BBC.

Birthdays today

The Princess Royal celebrates her 47th birthday today.

Lord Burnham, 66; Sir Charles Carter, FBA, former Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University, 78; Mr David Coleman, former president, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 58; Mr Edmund Dell, former MP, 76; Dr Hans Reibisch, mural painter, 99; Mr James Fletcher, Headmaster, Ardingly College, 88; Dame Wendy Hillier, actress, 85; Miss Rita Hunter, soprano, 64; Lord Ingraham, 80; Mr Jack Lynch, former Prime Minister, Republic of Ireland, 80; Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, MEP, 48; Sir Patrick Nairne, former Master, St Catherine's College, Oxford, 76; Sir Kenneth Newman, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, 71; Major-General Kenneth Perkins, 71; Mr Oscar Peterson, jazz pianist, 72; Mr Justice Popplewell, 70; Professor Sir Leon Radzinowicz, FBA, criminologist, 91; Lady Jean Rankin, former Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 92; Professor Sir Michael Rutter, FRS, Professor of Child Psychiatry, London University, 64; Viscount Selby, 83; Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Severn, former Captain of The Queen's Flight, 72; Captain Richard Smyly, racehorse trainer, 44; Lord Steyn, 65; Sir Stephen Tumlin, Principal, St Edmund Hall, Oxford, 67; the Hon William Waldegrave, former MP, 51; Sir Kenneth Warren, aeronautical engineer, 71; Air Marshal Sir William Wren, 58.

Women of the Year Lunch

Queen Noor of Jordan will be the royal and international guest of honour at the Women of the Year Lunch, in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, at the Savoy Hotel on Monday, October 6.

The Marchioness of Lothian, founder president, will preside. The vice-presidents are the Countess of Airlie, Miss Paddy Campbell, Lady Healey and Miss Virginia Wade. Miss Fiorella Benjamin is the executive chairman of the lunch and the Hon Diana Makgill, Ms Diane Canady and Ms Janet Hull are vice-chairmen.

Service dinner

Merseyside ACF
The Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, the Chairman of the North West of England and the Isle of Man regional ACF Committee and the Regional Chief Executive of TAVERA were the principal guests at a regimental dinner of the Merseyside Army Cadet Force held last night at Napier Barracks, Shorncliffe. Colonel Martin Ambit, Commandant, and Officers of the force were the hosts. Major Ron Sinclair presided.

Apothecaries

The following have been elected officers of the Society of Apothecaries of London for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr M.A. Pugh; Senior Warden, Dr I.T. Field; Junior Warden, Mr R.J. Parker.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

Dahlias and gladioli sparkle at the RHS Wisley Show

Smallest flowers are among the stars

By ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TWO favourite summer flowers, dahlias and gladioli, are the mainstays of the Royal Horticultural Society's Wisley Flower Show, which opened yesterday.

A display of orange bedding dahlias from Aylett Nurseries of London Colney, Hertfordshire, forms a "hot" centrepiece to the show, and features the comparatively new "Moonstone" whose single pale orange flowers have a red central zone. The foliage is flushed with herbs.

The Joint Dahlia Committee (RHS and National Dahlia Society) are showing examples of dahlias in the trials at the RHS Garden, Wisley. The display includes what are thought to be the smallest flower dahlias of all: the Liliput Cultivars "Orno" (white), and "Harvest Imp" (brilliant vermillion).

Marchel Snock, of Jen P Snock, Driekortensweg, The Netherlands, has staged a display of cultivars he has bred for cut flower production, although some such as the new salmon pink, large-flowered "Flevo" option, are potential candidates for the show bench. He has also bred an especially fine bright yellow gladiolus. "Plevo



John Hipkin, a British Gladioli Society judge from Matlock, Derbyshire, takes a judgmental view of dahlias

Memory". The RHS has staged an educational exhibit of the National Collections, held at its gardens, RHS Gardens, Rosemoor, Devon. It is showing ixex or hotmills, ranging from the chestnut-leaved *Ilex Aquifolium* and "Hastata" to *I. Crenata*, "Golden Hella", with tiny golden leaves. Among the collections from RHS Garden Wisley is a range of rhubarb cultivars including the unusual "Reeds Red" with especially fine bright yellow gladiolus.

First-time exhibitor Tony Hills, of Worldwide Gladiolus, Littlehampton, West Sussex, grows gladioli as a hobby and is building up collections of cut flower and garden cultivars from Latvia, the Czech Republic, Russia, the US and Canada, which he hopes to make more readily available. The exhibit includes some unusual colours such as lime green "Green Clover", and "Emerald Green", violet "Blue Skies" and dark crimson "Dave's

Memory". The RHS has staged an educational exhibit of the National Collections, held at its gardens, RHS Gardens, Rosemoor, Devon. It is showing ixex or hotmills, ranging from the chestnut-leaved *Ilex Aquifolium* and "Hastata" to *I. Crenata*, "Golden Hella", with tiny golden leaves. Among the collections from RHS Garden Wisley is a range of rhubarb cultivars including the unusual "Reeds Red" with especially fine bright yellow gladiolus.

Gold medallists are the African Violet Centre, of Terrington St Clement, Norfolk, showing Saintpaulias, including the new soft pink, white centred "Sarah"; Fir Trees Pelargonium Nursery of Stokesay, North Yorkshire, showing pelargoniums including the vibrant orange "Polka", a unique type ideal

for patio tubs, and Park Green Nurseries, of Welvington, Suffolk, showing hostas including *Hosta "White Fairy"* with fragrant, double, white flowers.

A gold medal has also been awarded to Toobee's Exotics of Woking, Surrey, for a display of strelitzias from Africa and Madagascar, including a 25-year-old specimen of *Pachy Podium Lamerei* with a swollen, tapered, spiny trunk, crowned with a cluster of white flowers.

The annual exhibition of the British Gladioli Society is being held in conjunction with the Wisley Flower Show. An unnamed large-flowered pink hybrid has scooped a clutch of trophies for T.

Fawcett, of Aylesbury. It has won the Albert Blake Trophy as the grand champion spike of the show, the British Trophy as the Best Spike of British Origin, and the Rosella Blake Trophy as the champion non-primitive spike.

The champion primulines spike is the red "Essex", which has won the Gones Trophy for A Boycott of Telford. The champion small- or medium-flowered spike is "White Icing", shown by A. Smith, of Wigston, who has received the Derek Brown Trophy.

The show, at the RHS Garden, Wisley, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev William Coke, Vicar, Ambleside St Mary w Brathay Holy Trinity (Carlisle); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Langdale (same diocese).
The Rev Dr Peter Crick, Bishop's Adviser in Continuing Ministerial Education, and Priest-in-Charge, Coniscliffe (Durham); to be Rector, City of Bristol (Bristol).
The Rev Mary Elliott, NSM, St Mary's, Bury St Edmunds (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich); to be NSM, Culford, West Stow and Wordwell w Hembury, Hengrave and Laxford and Fornham w Timworth (same diocese).
The Rev Ian Brothwood, Priest-in-Charge, South Norwood St Alban (Southwark); to be Vicar (same diocese).
The Rev Stephen Caple, Vicar, St Saviour, Eltham (Southwark); to be Vicar, Christ the King, Saltfords (same diocese).
The Rev Elizabeth Cartington, Associate Priest, Basford w Hyslop with special responsibility for Basford St Leodegaris (Southwell); to be Lecturer, Nottingham. St Mary the Virgin (same diocese).
The Rev Canon Philip McFadyen, Vicar, Ranworth w Paxworth, and Woodbastick and Associate Director of Training (Norwich); to be also Broads Chaplain (same diocese).
The Rev David Nicholson, SSC, Vicar, Abergavenny w Cwmtyrnlli and Six Bells (Monmouth); to be Priest-in-Charge, St John the Baptist, Cwmgwrach (Southwark); to be also Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral (same diocese).
The Rev Gordon Plumb, Priest-in-Charge, The Low Villages, South Ferriby, Horkstow, Saxby, Bonby and Worsley (Lincoln); to be Rector (same benefice).
The Rev Helen Poole, NSM Assistant Curate, Ludgvan, St Hilary w Perranuthnoe (Truro); to be NSM Assistant Curate, Paul (same diocese).
The Rev Alan Raine, NSM Assistant Curate, Jarrow Team Ministry (Durham); to be Rector, Woman Advisor in Ministry

and Priest-in-Charge, Stanhope w Frosterley, and Eastgate w Rookhope (same diocese).
The Rev David Lamb, Curate, Holy Trinity, Formby (Liverpool); to be part-time Curate, St Matthew, Thurne Heath (same diocese).
The Rev Elizabeth Leaver, Curate, St Barnabas, Cambridge (Ely); to be Chaplain, St Katherine's Hall, Liverpool Hope University College (Liverpool).

The Rev Joyce Marsden, Curate, St Peter, Woolton (Liverpool); to be Team Vicar, St Philip, Derbyshire Hill, Parr (same diocese).
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Latest wills

Vere, Lady Birdwood, of London SW3, left estate valued at £310,515 net. She left £500 to King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, £300 to the RSPB and to the Salvation Army; £200 to the Fellowship Houses Trust; Lady Davis, of London SW20, left estate valued at £20,690 net.

Nesta Florence Jones, of Penard, Vale of Glamorgan, left estate valued at £3,931,464 net.

Major General Gerald Abson Whiteley, Director of Army Legal Services 1964-69, of Haslemere, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,007,158 net. He left £10,000 to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, £1,000 to St George's, Hanover Square.

Dorothy Mand Silverster, of New Milton, Hampshire, left estate valued at £2,052,676 net. She left £10,000 to the Motor Neurone Disease Association; £5,000 each to University College, London, and the Music Society, Musicians' Benevolent Fund, Western Orchestral Society, Age Concern, England and Wales, and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

Charles Benedict Ward, of London W2, left estate valued at £1,630,334 net. He left £50,000 to the National Trust, £10,000 to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council; £2,000 each to Oxfam, the NSPCC, Salvation Army, St Mungo's, the Woodland Trust, Bradford Diocesan Structure Fund, Alvehole Hospital, Governors of the Foundation of Emyrwyd Grammar School, St John's College, Cambridge, and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

Elizabeth Edward, of Frazerton, Dorchester, Dorset, left estate valued at £599,541 net. Marjorie Bell, of Ulverston, Cumbria, left estate valued at £1,512,564 net.

Ronald Jackson Windle, builder and contractor, of Garsdale, Skipton, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,507,536 net.

He left £50,000 to the National Trust, £10,000 to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council; £2,000 each to the NSPCC, Salvation Army, St Mungo's, the Woodland Trust, Bradford Diocesan Structure Fund, Alvehole Hospital, Governors of the Foundation of Emyrwyd Grammar School, St John's College, Cambridge, and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

Mr N.J.H. Hughes and Miss V.E.M. Hillies

The engagement is announced between Christian, son of Michael and Gisela Duffell, currently of Palm Beach, Florida, and Victoria, eldest daughter of Douglas and Dorothy Hillas, of Swannick, East Yorkshire.

Mr J.R.G. Evans and Miss T.L. Dinslop

The engagement is announced between Roger, younger son of the late Vernon Ernest Eaton and of Mrs Daphne Elizabeth Eaton, of Radwinter, Saffron Walden, and Tiffany Lucinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Dinslop, of Edale, Derbyshire.

Mr C.R. Duffell and Miss V.E.M. Hillies

The engagement is announced between Christian, son of Michael and Gisela Duffell, currently of Palm Beach, Florida, and Victoria, eldest daughter of Douglas and Dorothy Hillas, of Swannick, East Yorkshire.

Mr N.J.H. Hughes and Miss M.C. Beresford-West

The engagement is announced between Nick, son of Mr and Mrs Trevor Hughes, of Bucknell, Shropshire, and Mimi, daughter of Mr Michael Beresford-West, QC, of Sandymoor, Suffolk, and of Mrs Paul Beresford-West, of Brighton, Sussex.

Dorothy May Milne, of Talbot Woods, Bournemouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,329,294 net.

Gerald Martin, of Colchester, Essex, left estate valued at £3,963,881 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.R.W. Parish and Miss L.J. Rogers-Coleman The engagement is announced between Robin, son of the late Major Michael Woodbine Parish, MC, and the Hon Mrs Parish, of Walton Hall, Stretton, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Wyndham Rogers-Coleman, of Ferryburn, Northumberland.

Mr D.J. Peach and Miss E. Vaisey

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Sir Leonard and Lady Peach, of Virginia Water, Surrey, and Elizabeth, younger daughter of David and Maureen Vaisey, of Oxford.

Mr S.M. Anderson and Miss C.L. Wagener

The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Dr. Maris Andersons and Mrs Jill Andersons, both of Toronto, Canada, and Clare, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Wagener, of Fairfield, Stansted, Essex.

Mr C.M.L. Bullock and Miss S.C. Giles

The engagement is announced between Colin, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Bullock, of Croydon, Surrey, and Sylvia, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Giles, formerly of Hong Kong.

Mr C.L.K. Cawell and Miss T.K.L. Wetherall

The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Cawell, of Babbington, Dorset, and Marjorie Bell, of Ulverston, Cumbria, left estate valued at £1,512,564 net.

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James Keir Hardie, Chairman of the Independent Labour Party 1893-1900 and 1913-14, Lanark, 1885; Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, composer, London, 1875; Robert Stephen Hawker, poet, Plymouth, 1822; Joseph Joachim, violinist and composer, Berlin, 1907; Paul Signac, painter, pioneer of Pointillism, Paris, 1935; René Magritte, Surrealist painter, Brussels, 1967.

The Tivoli Pleasure Gardens opened in Copenhagen, 1843. The Panama Canal was opened, 1914.

The Marine Broadcasting Act came into force, outlawing pirate radio stations broadcasting within British territorial waters, 1967.

Seas has its own unique approach to business. This is the conclusion of people who thought they might do the group a favour and take a few hundred shoe shops off its hands. "Too soon," they are being told. "We are not ready yet." It seems that, although the company doctor has been called in, the patient wants to edge a little closer to death before accepting treatment.

The bankers at JP Morgan have been brought in to prepare a sales memorandum on three of the group's shoe chains, but, apparently, a decision on whether to go ahead and sell will only be taken at the board meeting to be held at the end of this month. Presumably the bank will not be aggrieved if the group chooses to hang onto the stores, for it will still collect a fee. Sears shareholders, however, would have one more reason to feel that their company's idiosyncratic brand of commerce does not serve their interests well.

It was April when David James was handed the brief of trying to salvage part of the wreck of Liam Strong's reign. He may be dashing around like a dervish within the business, but shoe sales remain dismal. And the danger is that the board's evident reluctance to take decisions may jeopardise the rest of the Sears operations.

For who is running the shop? Mr James is charged only with dealing with the shoe shops. Sir Bob Reid has had a dreadful record as chairman, and he is even less well qualified for taking day-to-day control of the group, which includes Selfridges and assorted fashion chains. It is all very well disposing of one chief executive, but eventually someone needs to take over the job.

In a company where morale has already taken a battering, the lack of leadership can only inflict further damage. There is a potential internal candidate for the chief executive role, someone, it is said, who is inordinately brave enough to cover the job. Insiders fear that if Derek Lovelock, who currently heads the womenswear division, is not promoted, he may be tempted to look elsewhere.

Sears is shrouded in uncertainty: will it be allowed to off-load the ever-deteriorating Freemans mail order business? Will it be able to float off Selfridges before the stock market collapses? To leave the question "Who is in charge?" unanswered seems unnecessarily cruel.

If Sir Bob believes that he has

his hand on the tiller, then he should take warning from the example of Sir Desmond Pitcher. Sears shareholders have at least as much reason for displeasure with the performance of their chairman as the investors in United Utilities in theirs.

No longer is the Sears share

price "always a pound". The former BR boss has taken it to 62p.

Hush Puppies with a big bark

Karen Clark more than most ought to know how onerous the role of non-executive director should be in the wake of all those well-intentioned pronouncements on corporate governance. Nevertheless, the former Chancellor has made a shrewd move, opting to sign up with Foreign & Colonial

Investment Trust. Shrewd because since 1988 F&C has been providing first-time, as well as more experienced investors, with a perfect vehicle into the stock market. Investors who entrusted £1,000 to F&C in 1970 would have £34,875 at the end of June this year, assuming they had reinvested the dividends. Inexperienced stock market punters would have been relying on an exceptionally generous lady luck to beat that performance.

But Clarke is bravely striding into F&C in his Hush Puppies at a time when the investment trust sector needs all the fame it can get. Doom-mongers are predicting the end of the movement because the shares are currently trading at a discount of between 12 per cent and 14 per cent to the value of the investments held in the underlying portfolio. This is

not as bad as it might seem: ten years ago, the discount stood at 25 per cent. Go back 20 years and it was 30 per cent.

But, even if it is not as sick as it looks, the trust sector does have its problems and they are largely of its own making. The management contracts are very often far too cosy with the emphasis on protecting the manager rather than the investor. Management fees, although coming down, are still regarded as very generous when compared with those received by professional pension fund managers. Then there is the vexed question of split level trusts. Many of these have hugely complex structures with little chance of making the returns aimed at to investors. Those trusts' life spans are reaching the end: now the investment trust movement should opt for simplicity, preferably with

one class of share — either income or capital.

The former Chancellor will be well placed to emphasise the virtues of keeping costs down and striving for simplicity. To earn his keep as a non-executive director, he should do so, and loudly.

Navigating away from black holes

The bonus culture of the City has been bemoaned by salaried folk from the Bank of England, Parliament and the press. Now Imro wants a bright idea to try to align bonuses to good behaviour. It will be fascinating to see how enthusiastically the plan is leapt upon in the Square Mile.

In theory, financial institutions do not need extra cash to those who break the rules. In practice, however, schemes generally work on the basis of rewarding performance measured merely on the figures. Compliance is a different matter, and someone else's responsibility.

The rash of scandals and black holes that has broken out in the

City has undoubtedly encouraged firms to look more closely at how the rules are policed. What Imro wants is to see bonuses tied not merely to the figures, but to compliance as well.

This may be admirable in principle, but not so impressive in practice. If individual traders are to be marked on the compliance before they get their foot, then it is hard to see why the process should result in any change in the black hole quotient. After all, compliance officers are already on patrol. So are individuals to be asked to fill in forms, ticking the boxes all the time to indicate that they are sticking to the rules?

On that basis, Nick Leeson might well have been able to swell his bank accounts quite considerably more than he did.

Short hop

MARTIN SORRELL has achieved a remarkable turnaround at WPP, fighting back from the brink to make the company a world-class act in advertising and marketing. But when he talks of expanding into consultancy, it occasions just the slightest shudder in those with long memories. The Saatchis, when bored with being admen, moved towards consultancy, and it was just a short hop from that to think they might buy a bank.

Glynwed closes pipe deal

By MARK COURSE

GLYNWED International, the Aga cookers to construction products group, yesterday announced the £23.67 million (£15.07 million) acquisition of a pipe distribution business on the East Coast of the United States.

Industrial Plastics Technology was bought by Harrington Industrial Plastics, Glynwed's US subsidiary, in a deal that will make Harrington the biggest US supplier of industrial plastic pipes.

The market reacted favourably to the deal, which came just two days after Glynwed's interim results and which saw the company's shares end the day 12½ up at 247½p.

But the City would like the pace of disposals at the company to be speeded up. One analyst said: "This deal will give them a stronger presence in the US but it is not material. They are quite good at buying businesses but they have never really sold any of the low-quality businesses, with the exception of Wednesbury Tube."

Hanson plans expansion of Cornerstone 'over there'

By PAUL DURMAN

HANSON, the building materials group that has emerged from the former conglomerate, is looking to expand Cornerstone, the US aggregates business that is currently its fastest-growing business.

Cornerstone, which in April paid £7.8 million for Concrete Pipes and Products, contributed operating profits of £26.9 million in Hanson's half-year total of £121 million. Stripping out the effect of the stronger pound, Cornerstone's profits were almost a third higher.

Andrew Dougal, Hanson's chief executive, said: "These 'excellent' results were helped by new investment and margin improvements, but were based on the continuing strength of the US economy. Cornerstone, who expects to benefit from a \$23 billion infrastructure spending programme recently agreed by the US Government."

Mr Dougal and Chris Collins, the deputy who succeeds Lord Hanson as group chairman at the end of the year, said they saw significant scope to expand Cornerstone geographically as the US industry consolidates. Cornerstone al-



Built-in profits: Andrew Dougal, left, chief executive of Hanson, with Alan Murray, the finance director

ready claims a better spread of business than its rivals.

Helped by price rises and the strengthening housing and commercial building markets, ARC, the UK aggregates business, increased operating profits by 6 per cent to

£4.5 million, while Hanson

lifted profits by 18 per cent to £20.7 million.

Hanson reported interim pre-tax profits of £96.9 million, reduced to £47.8 million after £49.1 million of deductions, including the loss on the

£145 million sale of its electricity business. It gave no prior year comparison.

Hanson said that the pace of the UK recovery had flattened in recent weeks, and is concerned that the Government has cancelled and delayed

road-building programmes.

But Mr Dougal said that he was very optimistic about the

outlook for its operating companies. An interim dividend of 4p is due October 24.

Tempus, page 24

Health care group cuts back on beds

By MARK COURT

WESTMINSTER Health Care, the nursing home to drug rehabilitation group, intends to sell up to 15 per cent of its beds to help to fund a £70 million acquisition spree.

Pat Carter, Westminster's chief executive, unveiled his plans as he announced a 14 per cent rise in full year pre-tax profits to £20 million.

But more than £6 million was wiped off the figure after an abortive hostile bid for rival Goldsborough and subsequent reorganisation costs.

Mr Carter indicated that the decline in the nursing home sector has levelled out.

He said: "We seem to be

able to see the shape of the

floor now. Occupancy levels are stabilising."

Even so the company is stepping up its diversification plans so that only half of its profits come from the nursing homes sector by 2000.

Mr Carter said: "We set out this year to get more than 20 per cent of profits from outside nursing homes and we got 22 per cent. We are looking at 30 per cent in the current year and so on until we get a more balanced business."

Funding for acquisitions is likely to come in part from selling about 500 nursing home beds to raise about £15 million.

A final dividend of 4p (3.65p)

will be paid on October 3.

MDIS reduces losses

By ADAM JONES

MDIS, the troubled computer services company formerly known as McDonnell Information Systems, reported a £3.9 million loss before tax yesterday for the first half of 1997. The deficit compares with £9.2 million in 1996.

Turnover rose from £51.2 million to £54.4 million. The

shares, which rose from 32½p to 34p, have performed disastrously since floating at 260p in 1994.

They were suspended earlier in the summer when MDIS was unable to refinance in time to release its annual accounts, which revealed a £49.5 million pre-tax loss for 1996.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT		
Year ended	Six months ended	At
30 June	30 June	30 June
1997	1996	1997
£000	£000	£000
15,997	8,319	
Revenue		
Income from rent and sale of property		
Surplus on realisation of investments		
Interest received	9	-
Gold royalties and income from other sources	1,847	533
Income from investments	1,132	462
Expenditure	19,292	9,708
Administration	5,062	2,457
Interest paid	51	16
Amount written off	138	-
Profit before tax	5,089	2,854
Tax	1,173	4,387
Profit after tax	3,916	2,467
Unappropriated profit/(Accumulated loss) brought forward	153	11,937
Less	8,328	2,450
Dividends declared	8,236	2,297
Interest 25c (NED)	2,556	-
Profit 40c (SOC)	1,590	3,067
Transfer to reserves	1,590	(770)
Unappropriated profit, carried forward	89	153
Earnings per share - cents	80	43
Dividends per share - cents	65	30
- times covered	1.2	1.4

NOTES:

Change of Year End

As a result of a change in the company's financial reporting period from 31 December to 30 June last year the comparative figure reflected in this report cover the six month period ended 30 June 1996.

Disposal of the Major Shareholder's Interest

Negotiations for the sale by the major shareholder of its interest in this company with two potential purchasers are well advanced. The outcome of these negotiations is expected shortly.

DECLARATION OF FINAL DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 101 of 40 cents per share in respect of the year ended 30 June 1997 has been declared in South African currency payable to members registered at the date of business on 29 August 1997.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 1 October 1997 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 30 September 1997.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable from the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 30 August to 5 September 1997, inclusive.

Head Office and Share Transfer Office:
75 Fox Street
Johannesburg 2001
Republic of South Africa

London Office and Office of
United Kingdom Registrar:
Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited
Greenwich House
Francis Street
London SW1P 1DH

By order of the Board:
per pro GOLD FIELDS
CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
London Services
S.J. Dunning
Secretary

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET		
At	30 June	30 June
	1997	1996
£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets	66,976	67,456
Investments	12,216	12,085
Land and township development	3,857	3,983
Net current assets	6,164	3,404
Current assets	16,177	9,695
Cash	12,619	6,138
Other	3,558	3,553
Less current liabilities	10,013	6,289
Share capital	89,207	8

STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

Second liners enjoy the best of a lacklustre day

SECOND line stocks saw the best of a lacklustre day's trading as profit-taking and a futures-led sell-off took the FTSE 100 back below 1,000.

Early gains that pushed the market up more than 28 points evaporated in the afternoon in spite of Wall Street's more confident opening. By the close the FTSE 100 stood at 1,001.3, down 12.3, while the FTSE 250 held steady to end at 4,689.9, up 12.9.

Orange, the mobile phone group, provided one of the few bright spots. The shares moved up 8.2p to 220.9p, a rise of 4 per cent, after encouraging earnings figures and lower losses supported group forecasts on pre-tax profits by 1999. The Orange figures helped Vodafone, a rival operator, to increase 3p to 321p.

As buying interest switched to the German mark, the weaker pound brought exporters some welcome relief.

BTW was the best performer amongst FTSE 100 stocks and saw more than 18 million shares traded. The shares ended 12.2p higher at 214p.

Currency factors and expansion in the US were also said to be behind 12.2p rise to 347.2p for Glyned International.

Drugs groups recovered ground after recent falls. Zeneca ended at 191.10p, up 24p off its best of the day. The rise was helped by a positive broker note. Glaxo Wellcome, went ex-dividend, but rose 15p to 124p.

Chloroquine led the FT-250 top performers with a 16.2p rise to 284p, while Medeva put on 5.4p to 224p. Franklin Resources has lifted its stake in the group to 8.15 per cent after the acquisition of a further 2.2 million shares.

Allied Domecq continued to find support. Its shares added 7p to 482.2p, while Guinness saw brisk turnover of nearly 12 million shares as a number of institutions topped up holdings. Guinness shares moved up 2.5p to 585p.

Shares in Unilever were tripped up by comments from analysts at Schroder who said that the food and detergents multinational had £1 billion to spend on an acquisition although most of the possible targets would dilute earnings. The broker also said that Unilever shares were overvalued by 10 per cent. At the close Unilever was trading 26p lower at 1,055p.

The announcement that Al-



Derek Smith, the managing director of MAID, and Dan Wagner, the chief executive, saw the share price decline

bert Fisher, the seafood to salads fresh food group, was no longer in takeover talks, knocked its shares sharply. At one point, the price hit a trading low of 35p, down from 45p, and just 1p off its lowest point this year. By the close the shares had moved back up to 38p.

Hanson shares fell back 24.2p to 304p after it reported first-half figures. Strong growth potential in the US was flagged up by the group reporting its first set of figures since demerging.

Profit-taking pushed WPP, the advertising group, to a low of 266p before it recovered to close at 270p, down 3p. The strong pound kept a lid on profit increases, with pre-tax profit for the half year rising to 308p.

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Hanson shares fell back 24.2p to 304p after it reported

£78.3 million, compared with £69.1 million.

Lower first-half losses from MAID, the online information group, and details of a £5.5 million acquisition, left its shares 5.5p lower at 209p.

Banks were in the spotlight again. Alliance & Leicester rose 9p to 612.2p ahead of interim results today, while Halifax, reporting next week, ended up just 1p at 73p. Royal Bank of Scotland continued to slide, dropping 1p to 60p on further consideration of its acquisition of Birmingham Midshires.

Scottish Media, owner of Scottish TV, was unchanged at 642.2p after buying a further 13.1 per cent stake in Ulster TV for £14.5 million, taking its holding to 14.9 per cent.

News of the move propelled Ulster TV 32.2p higher to 199p, its highest level this year. Ahead of results today, BSkyB eased back 1p to 470p.

Television Corporation rose 1p to 203p, after Sunstar & Vine, a subsidiary, was awarded a contract to provide news coverage for Channel 5.

In the wake of midweek fixtures, Caspian, owner of Leeds United, moved up 1p to 26p after the team's 3-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday.

Boots rose to 796.1, a 12p gain, helped by a positive note from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker. It said that given recent underperformance Boots offered irresistible value.

Games Workshop, the model soldier and games group that earlier in the week announced a 25 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, jumped 5p to 630p. The rise was helped by a strong "buy" recommendation from Credit Lyonnais Laius, which is pencilling in a target price of more than 700p.

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Games Workshop, the model soldier

Janson



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Single currency offers no easy solution for sterling

Pound could continue to rise rather than fall if EMU goes ahead

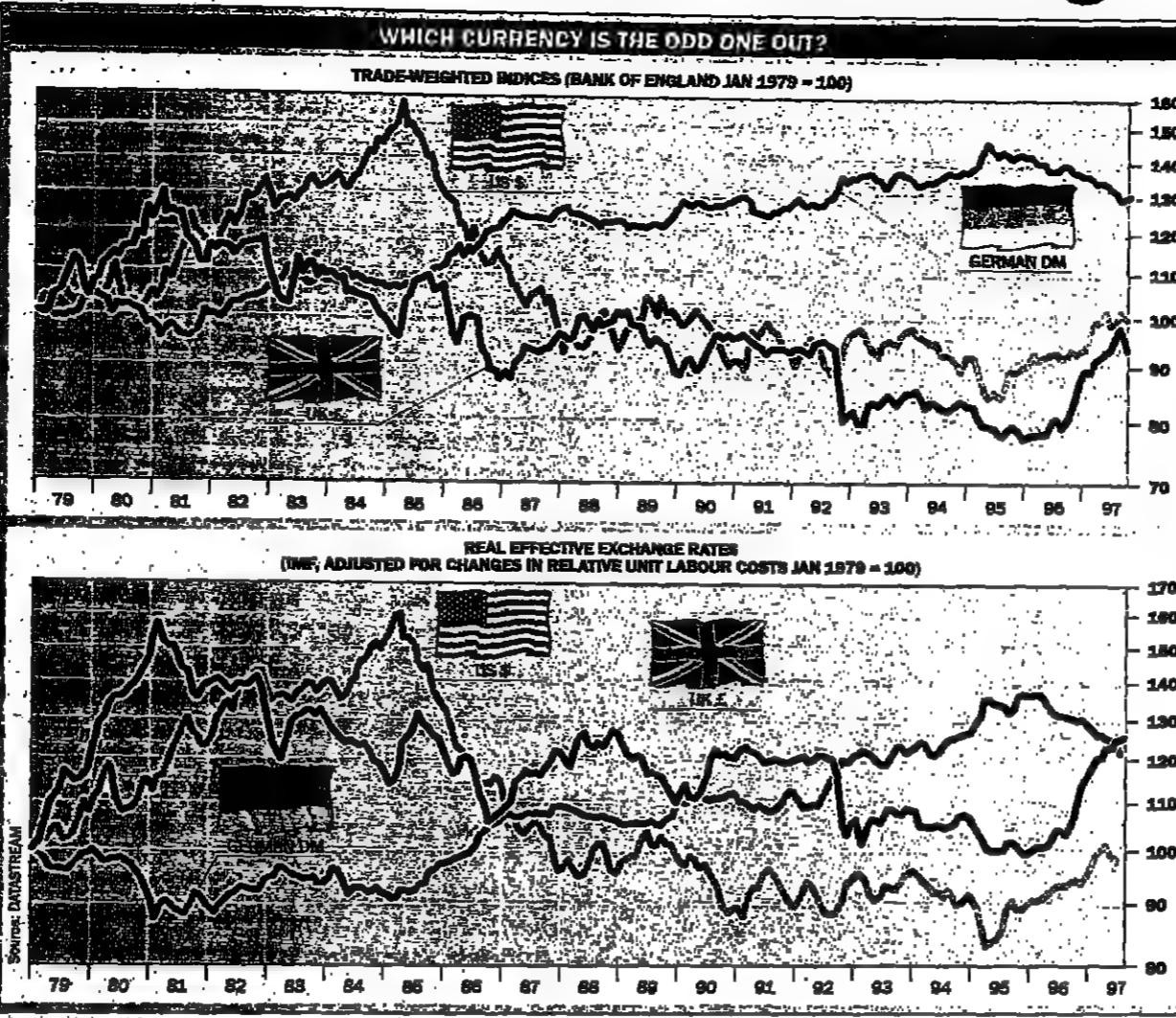
Will European monetary union come to the rescue of beleaguered British exporters by producing a big devaluation of the pound? On Wednesday afternoon the foreign exchanges in London and New York were suddenly abuzz with rumours about a deal between Tony Blair, Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac. Britain, which takes over the presidency of the European Union in January, would allegedly propose a one-year delay of EMU to January 2000, which France and Germany would graciously agree to in exchange for the face-saving "achievement" of extracting a promise from Britain to join the single currency as a founder-member in January 2000.

This speculative story seems to have been put about by German Euro-sceptics, who cannot face the notion that Germany would be the only large northern Protestant country in a monetary union dominated by France, Italy and Spain. Similar speculation about a "constructive delay" in EMU, brokered by Mr Blair, has been doing the rounds of the international conference circuit ever since the British election in May. But until this rumour was printed in London's *Evening Standard*, most market and political observers shared the view expressed by the British Treasury on Wednesday, when it was asked if the story was true this story did "not even deserve to be dignified with a no comment". Why, then, did the markets suddenly take it seriously?

The easy answer is simply that in mid-August traders will latch on to any story, however implausible, if it might generate some business. A related reason is that every currency speculator in the world had been selling marks for months after the Bundesbank gold heist and the French election destroyed the last hope that a rigorous monetary union would go ahead with a small number of countries on essentially Germanic terms. Sooner or later a correction was bound to come as these traders decided to cash in their profits. The pound and dollar were equally overbought and nervous short-term holders have been looking for excuses to sell.

Beneath the froth of market commotion, however, several worthwhile observations about EMU, Germany and Britain are suggested by the past week's events.

The first is that German opponents of a soft Latin-dominated EMU are begin-



ning to clutch at straws. Serious opposition to EMU in Germany seems to be evaporating, even though the political position of Helmut Kohl, the single currency main proponent, is getting weaker by the day. Paradoxically the two developments may be connected. As it begins to look near-certain that Herr Kohl will be ousted at next autumn's elections by a coalition of Social Democrats and Greens, the opposition parties are less tempted to turn EMU into a political issue to embarrass the beleaguered Chancellor. Under these circumstances, the pro-EMU conventional wisdom of Germany's financial and industrial lobbies is bound to prevail over the visceral antagonism of the ordinary people.

German defenders of the mark, as they despair of domestic politics as a mechanism for stopping EMU, are trying to conjure up a *deus ex machina* from abroad. But why on earth should the French agree to any kind of delay? The new French Government is achieving exactly what it wanted and what it promised voters, now that Herr Kohl has effectively downgraded the 3 per cent deficit target and created a procedure that will allow the whole of Club Med to join. But even if the French did want a delay, why should Tony Blair get involved? It is hard to believe that he would jeopardise his Government by promising to take Britain into EMU before the next general election, since this would necessitate a referendum at the mid-point of the present Parliament, when his popularity is likely to be at its lowest ebb.

The first is that German opponents of a soft Latin-dominated EMU are begin-

ravages of an overvalued currency, then it seems reasonable to assume that both the mark and the euro will be deliberately managed to achieve this end. This observation leads to a question of special relevance to Britain.

Why do so many investors believe that the ending of the present uncertainty about EMU would automatically produce a much lower pound? Essentially, German businessmen now see EMU as a guarantee that their exports will never again be ravaged by an overvalued currency. The Germans still want low inflation (as do people in every other country) but they have begun to understand the lesson that was learnt in 1995 by the Japanese and ten years before that by the Americans — stable prices at home can be perfectly compatible with a currency that is relatively

siding over a continent suffering long-term economic depression? In that case, the pound might strengthen further if EMU went ahead and the mark's abolition became certain.

This is in fact the conclusion suggested by common sense. If EMU goes ahead, the governments of Europe, led by the Germans, will be determined to maintain a competitive exchange rate. This will make it even harder than it is today for Britain either to manipulate the pound downwards or to join EMU at an artificially advantageous rate.

The Bank, along with many other analysts, assumes that the currency values prevailing in 1995 and 1996, when sterling was low and the mark was high, were "normal", while today's conditions are somehow an artificial. But the opposite is true from the German point of view. As the charts show, the present level of the pound is much less of an aberration by historic standards than the value of the mark until last year. British industry would, of course, have benefited from preserving the extremely competitive level of the pound we enjoyed in 1995 and 1996. But to keep the pound at such a competitive level would have required a complicated exercise in economic policy and monetary diplomacy. The present Government's priorities — above all its decision to create an independent central bank — dictated a different approach.

Now that this die has been cast, we must accept the consequences — and British industry must learn to live without the help of a highly competitive pound.

The last thing Germans want is a mark that is stronger than the lira

weak on the foreign exchanges. With unemployment rising monthly to new records, the last thing the German business community or voters want today is a mark that is stronger than the lira, peseta or French franc. This is the most important reason why EMU now seems all but certain. It also explains why the Bundesbank's putative concern about "excessive" depreciation of the mark against the dollar will continue to be all talk and no action.

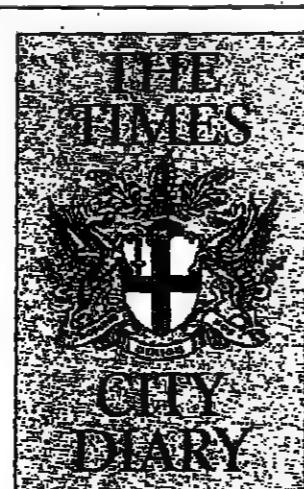
But if one of the main reasons why Germans want to join EMU is to avoid the

held up by gridlock. Tube shutdown, road rage outbreaks or any other unforeseen occurrences, we have arranged for a motorbike to pick you up from your office. I think I'd rather walk.

Broken up

ANYONE in doubt that the 1980s fetish for multi-tentacled companies is dead and buried should make a quick telephone call to the broker Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and ask to speak to a conglomerates analyst. "Conglomerate? I'm afraid we don't have that company listed," came yesterday's response. Further explanation also proved fruitless. "It does all sorts of things you say, sir? Well does it do them in the retail sector? The bank sector?" Then the cards were laid down. "I don't wish to sound ignorant, but must confess that I don't know what a conglomerate actually is." After a few minutes of explanation, the old trick was deployed: if you can't understand them, put them through to the voice mail.

JASON NISSE



ALBERT FISHER, now obliged to stay independent, was given an ambiguous commendation by one City analyst yesterday. "Their new chief executive is quite impressive," he said. "He's from Mars."

Initial idea

THOSE corporate identity maniacs have it at again. The burgeoning Portman Recruitment Services, who apparently are the bods to ask if you need a temporary lawyer, banker or computer programmer, is changing its name to reflect that it is now part of Rentokil Initial. Unfortunately — according to the improbably fabled publicity person, Shayne

Royal treatment

EXPECT long queues outside the Leeds office of DTZ Debenham Thorp, the estate agent, this morning. There is a noon deadline to make an offer for a portfolio of 34 houses being sold by the kings of drought, Yorkshire Water.

The homes — which are being sold as a job lot — are surplus to Yorkshire's requirement. Many of them have tenants who pay a total of £168,000 a year for living in such princely addresses as Gorpel Reservoir Lodge near



King Hussein is linked to a bid for properties owned by Yorkshire Water

Plot unfolds

WITH those Woolwich, Halifax and Norwich Union windfalls burning a hole in my pocket, the question is — what

Pronounced Orange glow yet fulfilment remains elusive

Eric Reguly on why analysts have a sceptical view of market prospects for mobile phones

The future, it seems, is truly Orange. It crawled out of the wreckage of Hutchison Telecom's Rabbit debacle three years ago to become the fastest-growing mobile-phone network. Its brand name is among the best-known in the land, its flotation was wildly successful and it is on the verge of generating net profits in spite of a rapid roll-out programme that left rival One-2-One gasping for breath.

Why, then, are the shares unloved? The company was floated last year at 205p, which was at the absolute top end of forecasts, climbed to 250p then sunk below its issue price. Since then it has underperformed the market by about 10 per cent.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Shares lose early gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	1996 High	Low	Company	Price
100	98	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	99	145	142	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	142
100	98	147	145	147	145	147	145
100	98	148	146	148	146	148	146
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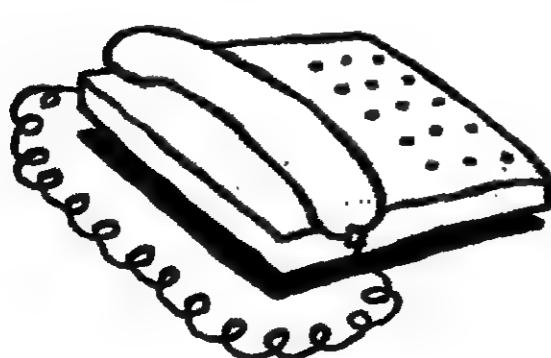
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YERSELF
A FORTUNE."

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BOB OR TWO."

"WHY AYE
IT'S A CANNY
MOVE THAT
MERCURY."

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FROM THOSE
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Members of the audience get ready to become part of the frenetic Catalan show, *Blinded by Love*, which bans photography of the action itself

Crash courses

IT'S not every

Fringe show that, ten minutes in, gives you a chance to scarper lest you feel cheated, conned or just plain bored. But this is exactly what Brazilian wild woman Denise Stoklos does in her new one-woman show, *Casa* (Assembly Rooms), an unstoppable crash course through 20 million years of history.

For, surrounded by the clutter of consumerism, this appears to be Stoklos's own exploration of her very soul. In the evolutionary stakes she comes on like the deformed offspring of an unholy union between Wurzel Gummidge and Big Bird, and literally hurls herself into her performance with naked abandon.

If it all sounds a trifle self-obsessed that's because it is, and the woman is probably hell to live with, but with *Casa* Stoklos is trying both to deal with and break through the late 20th-century malaise of being unable to communicate properly. And Stoklos is absolutely desperate to. Anything half-baked and half-articulated simply won't do.

In John Patrick Shanley's *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* (Netherbow), communication has broken down to such an extent that the two orphans from the urban storm it presents will fight their corner to the death if need be. Passed around the city like dirty postcards, Danny and Roberta meet, as in all love stories, in a bar. Initial hostilities melt into a kindred meeting of minds, followed inevitably by bodies. But in the cold light of day, as the emotional barricades go up once more, the hope for something better, a new way of living, remains.

NEIL COOPER

FRINGE

It is a simple tale of everyday folk, here given a moody production from the director John Mitchell and the combined forces of Edinburgh's own Oxygen House and Merlin companies. Mitchell has transposed Stanley's raw scripts into a fractured Edinburgh vernacular, which gives the play a thrilling universality. Niall Greig Fulton and Gillian Kerr invest the pair of bar-crossed lovers with a brittle and at times brutal sensitivity as their lives threaten to break.

Ambitious young internationalists Theatre Cryptic have taken the Quebec writer Daniel Denis's drippingly heartwrenching play *Celle-Là* (Traverse), about a mother, son and old man living under the same roof, and sprinkled enough gold dust on it to make it their own. Denis's dense, muscular work is quite complex enough as it is, yet adding live chamber music and an opera singer to the adventure playground of set somehow miraculously works. Clarity of narrative is occasionally lost, but in the main the disparate elements fuse as one.

In *Do You Come Here Often?* (Assembly Rooms) the Right Size fuse elements of stand-up into a welcome narrative structure, as a mismatched pair wake up in a bathroom, where they remain trapped for the next 35 years. What follows is a different kind of toilet humour, as the extremely funny Sean Foley and Hamish McColl introduce the Twilight Zone to Samuel Beckett in a conversation eavesdropped on by Vic Reeves.

NEIL COOPER

Spanish soap washes blacker

You begin to twig that this will not be in the great tradition of Edinburgh severity when you are guided to your seat via a room whose exhibits include fake oranges and jellies, a blue-haired mermaid, a TV drivelling on about Valencia, and an enormous wedding cake. Your suspicions are confirmed when you find that a screen fills the stage and you are watching a movie featuring soap-opera characters whose clothes appear to have been jointly designed by Matador, Gaudi and Edita Everage, and whose hairdos mostly come from Cruffs.

Behind those luridly coloured dots and weird diagonal slashes are members of the Catalan company La Cubana, on this showing as exuberant and resourceful a troupe as Auld Reekie can ever have encountered. Again and again living actors leap in and out of the screen in perfect synch with their movie selves. At one point a character has a heart-attack in close-up, and a gigantic arm falls onto the stage from his filmed shoulder. But it is the festive, anarchic feel of the happening (sponsored by Standard Life) that justifies carting it from the Mediterranean to the Forth.

The pretence is that a soap is in its last stages of filming. At her birthday do, the Spanish heroine lets loose some doves from the top of her cake, looks up, gets a bird-dropping in the eye, and is blinded. After that she is supposed to be cured by her French lover, who quickly qualifies as an ophthalmologist and personally operates on her; but, before the movie is in the can, chaos breaks out



THEATRE
Blinded by Love
International
Conference Centre

both behind the scenes in the film studios and in the stalls at the Conference Centre.

One of the planks in the audience rages at the fact that the film's surtitles are not in Catalan and ends up attacking the ushers. Another accuses the men around her of touching her up. Some Spanish football hooligans get into the act. The joke is that the actors on the screen can hear these interruptions. Indeed, they react to them with indignation, for the soap's heroine, a 50-year-old *ingénue*, is already causing them problems. She has got belatedly pregnant.

The only time the pace flagged was when we were assed by José Corbacho's camp film-director to put fatter questions to Anna Barrachina's simpering heroine. The response was minimal, but by that time the people around me had a mugged look. I am not sure that Jordi Milà's production has anything very serious to say about the respective natures of the legitimate and electronic media. But its mischief, energy and technical bravura stunned me too.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Souls baring all

COMEDY this year is more in the spirit of Pagliacci than Mr Punch. Soul-baring goes on all round; the Fringe is obviously still cheaper than a course in therapy.

Owen O'Neill is a magnificent comic writer who gives a startling performance as his drunken self. His monologue, *Off My Face* (Assembly Rooms), charts the destructive impact of his own alcoholism, and searches for the roots of addiction in his Ulster childhood. The monologue is structured around a series of psychiatric sessions at an alcohol unit. O'Neill, convinced that he has one up on the

COMEDY

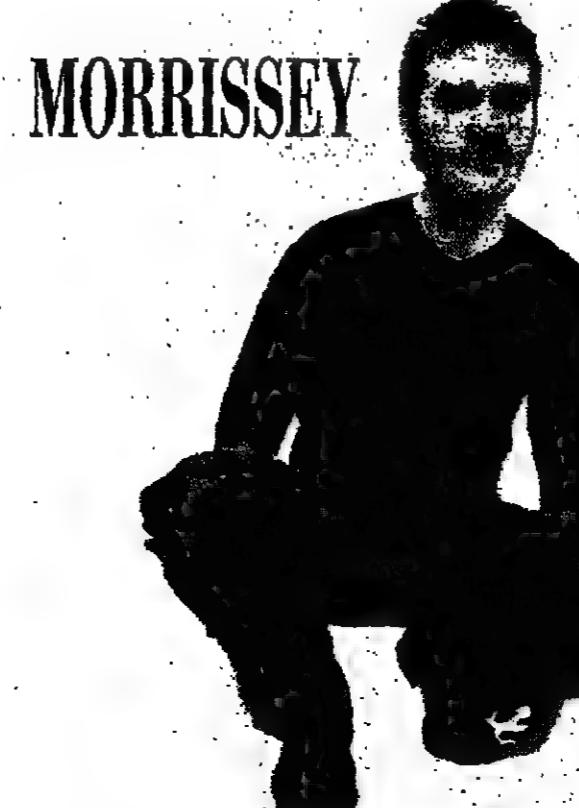
psychiatrist to whom he lies persistently, eventually fails from grace in spectacular fashion. This is probably one of the most powerful of pieces on the Fringe.

A different approach to a similar demon is taken by Paul Nichol. The irreverently titled *Paul Nichol is a Spy* (Gilded Balloon) is in many ways the braver piece of work. This is not the show that Nichol planned to do: "My show is always going to be very loose because I haven't written it yet," he explains to the audience. Such lack of foresight is because Nichol has been, by his own calculation, drunk since about 1982. Now sober, albeit temporarily, Nichol has eschewed the role of night-on-pain-sharing hувie to become a super-extensive maniac. He radiates energy and is magnetic to watch. Even when doubled up with laughter, the audience is not sure whether to be offended or insulted. Nichol is very funny, very twisted, never self-pitying and, owing to a certain amount of audience involvement, now in a position to blackmail me.

It is rare that one comes to the Fringe contact lenses, but I had not been wearing mine I could have become, momentarily, John Hesley's muse. Hesley, poet and Linon's most exciting export, bonds with the bespectacled onstage at the Traverse, imploring them to write words in chalk or draw dogs (surely a sick joke for the myopic). His new show is touching and autobiographical, following his life from conception to opera lyrics.

The poems and songs dig deep into his Catholic childhood, and the memory of his violent father. After missing his funeral — "Even, the one Mass he would have got me to, I managed to avoid" — he experiences a moment of grace years later in a Greek chapel, and lights a candle, "beeswax and stem"; in his memory. The anger and sadness that infuse his poetry do not block out the humour but make it rich.

HETTIE JUDAH



MORRISSEY

"MALADJUSTED"

THE NEW ALBUM OUT NOW INCLUDES ALMA MATER

Strange in any language

Dmitry Hvorostovsky gamely stood in at a late stage for an ailing Galina Gorchakova in the Bank of Scotland Queen's Hall recital series, so it might seem ungrateful to question his choice of programme. But why, with appetites whetted by those two names, nothing in Russian? Why? After a morning devoted entirely to settings in Italian, save for Valentine's aria from *Faust*, especially since his use of the language is little more than workaday?

When the Siberian baritone won the Cardiff Singer of the World competition and Bryn Terfel came second with the Lieder prize, there were some who thought it should have been the other way round, as their subsequent careers have indeed suggested. As if to prove them wrong Hvorostovsky devoted Wednesday morning almost entirely to opera, after the obligatory *ante ante* flushed Cuccini and Cesari. Even in this context his choices seemed odd: Handel's *Ombra mai fu* and Gluck's *Che farà* were written for

death throes — the sheer volume of sound would have been ringing in his ears for months. Freedom of tempo in *Erlku* from *Ballo in maschera* certainly kept the accompanist Julian Reynolds on his toes, and the encore of *Corigliano* will have sent the Duke of Mantua's courtiers running for cover. Hvorostovsky is prodigiously gifted, but I honestly didn't feel he did himself justice.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY AUGUST 15 1997

ARTS POP 29

He loved the guy, so you got the single

Puff Daddy's tribute to The Notorious B.I.G. was one thing. His filling in for his dead mate is another

COMEDY

It is not the point of this column at all, but Wednesday night was a roundly hilarious Post-Modern, ironic giggle-storm. Oasis's record company arranged what was said to be an exclusive preview of *Be Here Now* in the Virgin Megastore in Oxford Street. The media turnout was top notch — Reuters, *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *Daily Mail*, *The Observer*, Radio 1, MTV.

Unfortunately, no one had alerted the general public to the wonder-feast. An unseemly media scrum ensued, with *The Guardian* reduced to interviewing *The Times*, Reuters vice-popping MTV's camera crew, and the 12 members of the public who actually did turn up staring at the cameras as the camera crews filmed them staring at cameras.

Of this 12-strong mass, six were German, two clearly insane, and the other four "had heard it all last night on Radio 1, but wanted to listen to it here to make sure". Make sure of what?

Of course, one can understand this public confusion a little. After all, Oasis's much-touted *Dyou Know What I Mean?* was supposed to be

the biggest single of 1997, its release trumpeted on *News At Ten* and everything. But it's still only managed to stay at No 1 for one week before Puff Daddy and Faith Evans' *I'll Be Missing You*, which had already been at No 1, for six

weeks before Oasis's "comeback" returned to the top slot. Maybe those wild-eyed fans had hatched sinister conspiracy theory plots in their heads; and feared that Puff Daddy had also taken over the Oasis album, and rapped all over it for a laugh. Who knows what scenarios run through the heads of people willing to trek into the centre of London on the sweetest day of the year in order to hear an album they had hoped to hear the radio the day before?

CAITLIN MORAN

But back to Puff Daddy. You may be aware that Biggie Smalls, aka The Notorious B.I.G., was shot three months ago in America. So deep was the bond between Puff Daddy and Biggie that on hearing of the killing, Puff took the Police's *Every Breath You Take*, did a lachrymose rap over it about how much he missed B.I.G., got Biggie's estranged wife Faith Evans to warble meaningfully, and hey presto! No 1 for a million years, and Oasis's comeback marketing campaign shot to pieces.

Little matter that the end result *I'll Be Missing You* suspiciously echoed the episode of *The Simpsons* where Bart got stuck down a well and the International Community of Pop Stars rushed up a charity single for him called *We're Sending Our Love Down A Well*. In fact, as Sing sang the lead vocals on *We're Sending Our Love*, and also wrote *Every Breath You Take*, one could almost suspect that Puff was being deliciously ironic.

However, to the relief of Biggie fans everywhere, and of course his record company,



When his close friend The Notorious B.I.G. died, fellow rapper Puff Daddy dried his tears and headed for the mixing desk, samples in hand

Biggie had an album out at the time of his death, from which *Mo Money, Mo Problems* was itself released as a touching tribute single. As it went straight in at No 7 in the chart, *Top of the Pops* had to feature it in some way. However, Biggie had inconsiderately died before he could do a video for the single, so his good old mate Puff Daddy stepped into the breach.

Any suspicions that *I'll Be Missing You* may have been ironic were intensified when Puff and another mate, dressed in silver space suits, tenderly mimed Biggie's hit for him, forming their fingers into gun shapes and repeatedly and rhythmically digging

deep into their pockets to check they still had their house keys. It was one of those television occasions where you can sense a whole country taking a deep breath, muttering about insensitivity, and cursing the fact that they didn't have a blank videotape to hand.

As minds boggled and eyes

popped, the thought occurred to me that there simply isn't enough of this tacky, hysterical Hollywood stuff going on in the music industry at the moment. You can tell there are managers, pop stars and marketing people desperate to indulge in giddy acts of showbiz necrophilia. There must be hundreds of suits chewing cigars and mournfully barking: "When did we all get so goddam *tasteless*?" The guy is dead, and he would have wanted a *busload* of celebrities pretending to cry while singing their current hit at some Wembley "tribute" gig. After all, the dead *do* laugh as much as the rest of us, don't they?

NEW ALBUMS: Alan Jackson welcomes the return to form of Jesus Jones. Remember them?

New tricks from an old best of breed

JESUS JONES
Already
(Food/EMI UK 8570294 7)
£11.99

AS LEAD singer and songwriter Mike Edwards must be so tired of having pointed out, to him, Jesus Jones was the band that seemed to have it all. Leaping from indie status to full-blown stadium draw in what seemed like the blink of an eye, its members saw their second album, 1991's *Doubt*, soar to the top of the British charts, while the radio-friendly single *Right Here, Right Now* climbed to the dizzy heights of No 2 in America.

But then it all deflated, and almost as quickly, Break-ups, personal and professional, a third album that was deemed

a failure for selling a comparatively woeful half a million copies, a projected follow-up rejected by the band's record label because of a lack of that-old-familiar ingredient: decent tunes — nothing, it appeared, was going right for Jesus Jones.

But eventually and, apparently, after various false starts, things are back on track. Nowadays, of course, everyone and his dog incorporates samples and breakdowns into their pop-rock, à la early Jesus Jones, so their unique selling point is no more. Luckily, Edwards has always had something else up his sleeve — the ability to pen clever, quirky and insidiously commercial songs.

The opener, ironically titled *The Next Big Thing*, deserves to be a runaway hit, and there is much else to enjoy on

ALREADY, ALREADY. As George Michael would say, listen without prejudice.

SOUL COUGHING
Irresistible Bliss
(Slash/London 828 759-2)
£11.49

WHEN New York's *Village Voice* newspaper conducted its annual nationwide poll of 350 music writers to determine 1994's album of the year, the debut *Ruby Vroom* by this American four-piece emerged the clear victor.

Two albums later, their mix of beat poetry, rock and dance beats is a commercial winner too — back home at any rate. Britain has yet to succumb to their downbeat charm (frontman M Doughty sings with a tranquilised air that makes *Underworld* sound sprightly by comparison), and it is hard to see *Irresistible*

BLISS changing that situation, for all its originality and invention.

With repeated play, the 12 tracks (must-listen titles include *Paint*, *Disseminated* and *Collapse*) begin to assert a hypnotic pull. And, yet, study of their lyrics does reveal a miserably mordant wit (imagine the likes of Ben Folds Five in a straitjacket and under heavy medication, and you get something of the Soul Coughing flavour).

Plus, if a nation with an even shorter attention span than our own can take them to their hearts shouldn't we be able to do so too? But on the other hand — the New Miseryism? It's hardly the sound of summer.

ZIGGY MARLEY AND THE MELODY MAKERS
Fallen is Babylon
(Elektra 7559-62032-2)
£15.49

AS Julian Lennon might also vouchsafe, having a much loved, late and critically sainted father is a double-edged sword. Ziggy Marley's first steps into the recording world triggered a groundswell of affection and goodwill, but convincing the listening public that he is his own man, not just a pale substitute for Bob, was bound to prove difficult

On the evidence of *Fallen is Babylon* though, it is more than time for young Ziggy to receive recognition in his own right, in collaboration with brother Stephen (also a writer and, on *Long Winter*, an effective lead singer too) and

sisters Cedella and Sharon, he has fashioned a highly accomplished and varied collection of songs, each of them sophisticatedly produced but without any compromise of their essential simplicity and inner tension.

These days, only the more package-holiday style of reggae tends to make it into the British charts, but Marley and his siblings offer a more satisfying alternative.

OYSTERBAND
Deep Dark Ocean
(Cooking Vinyl Cook CD 128)
£12.99

PIONEERS of a roots-rock crossover in British folk, the five-man Oysterband are generally held to be a jolly good thing, but one that has failed to reach out to a wider constituency during their 17-year recording career.

Deep Dark Ocean, which will be backed up by an 18-date British tour that starts in the middle of next month, might be construed as a step towards changing that situation.

Their most smoothly accessible album to date makes concessions to radio programmers' tastes, but without any inherent compromise of the band's songwriting (singer John Jones and co-members Alan Prosser and Ian Telfer take all but one of the compositional credits) or previously established identity.

As a team, the Oysterband are best at detailing truths normally held just below the surface of ordinary life (the prolyse's admission of romantic need, *Only When You Call*, or its occasional moments of epiphany (the excellent *Milford Haven*, about a woman's flight from a long-standing relationship). Worthily they may be, but not dull.

Too good for rent-a-crowd

LIVE GIG

showed how determined he is to make people actually listen to his best songs by bravely returning to the stage alone to play an acoustic number. Fortunately, he blessed with a voice that is capable of forcing even the most indifferent into submission. After winning over a crowd like this, those Oasis supporters should be a cinch.

ANN SCANLON

inflexible spine. However, it proved a bit too sensitive for a few people in the Astoria crowd, who lobbed empty beer cans at the stage. The members of Travis took it well, though, shrugging the miseries aside and following up with the rousing pop song, *Happy*.

But singer Fran Healy

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THE CARLSBERG
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STEVE WINWOOD

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1 (2) <i>Whites on Blonde</i> ...	2 <i>The Fat of the Land</i> ...	3 <i>Backchatred's Back</i> ...	4 <i>OK Computer</i> ...	5 <i>Spice</i> ...	6 <i>Love Is For Ever</i> ...	7 <i>Sheryl Crow</i> ...	8 <i>Do It Yourself</i> ...	9 <i>Essentials</i> ...	10 (9) <i>No Way Out</i> ...
Prodigy <i>X2</i> (Mercury)	Backstreet Boys <i>Alive</i> (Mercury)	Radiohead <i>Parachute</i> (Mercury)	Spice Girls <i>Virgin</i> (Mercury)	Billy Ocean <i>Alive</i> (Mercury)	Sheryl Crow <i>ACM</i> (Mercury)	Seahorses <i>Geffen</i> (Mercury)	David Gates & Bread <i>Warner ESP/Jive</i> (Mercury)	Puff Daddy & The Family <i>Puff Daddy</i> (Mercury)	
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Can we improve on the gold standard?

Britain should expect much more of its sixth-formers. Ron McLone on the need for a new broader-based qualification

They are the gold standard of British education. But can we do better than gold?

The Dearing report on education for 16 to 19-year-olds expresses concern that over-specialisation of A-level courses leaves neither the candidates for university, nor those who choose to and their education at 18, not the nation. Which begs the question: whom does the A level serve?

Other countries do not feel the need to specialise so young. The French have their baccalaureat. The International Bac, together with the competing Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) produced in Britain by the Cambridge Board, are respected throughout the world.

During is only the latest in a long line to draw this conclusion. The last Government developed plans to replace A levels with a broader AICE-style qualification. But the Conservatives proved unable to convince people that the well-established quality of A levels could be maintained. The question should be, can we create a British Bac that builds on the strengths of the current arrangements?

There is much to be said for broadening the area of post-16 study, as required by the predecessor of the A levels, the Higher Schools' Certificate. The decision to concentrate on just three subjects was made to help to prepare candidates for the specialisation of English universities. But not all A-level candidates want to go to university. Today, it is less of an entrance exam for higher education and much more like a school-

leaving exam, preparing students for the world of employment. Candidates who see A levels as the culmination of 13 years of education would benefit more from challenging, rigorous and wide-ranging study than from concentrating on just three, often very similar, subjects.

Why does it continue? The answer is that most students make their A-level choices with at least the possibility of further study in mind. The system operated by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) assumes that candidates will take three subjects, that is precisely what most people do. There is no reason why we should not expect more from our sixth-formers. Commentators estimate that the French Bac is as demanding as five A levels, and in Singapore most candidates take five A levels. That's five of our British A levels.

Surely British teenagers are as hard-working as their Singaporean or French counterparts. So the broadening of the curriculum can be achieved without abandoning the rigour, objectivity and consistency of A-level examinations.

There are plans to pilot Key Skills in Communication, IT and Use of Number, from this September. But our contact with teachers and students suggests that without Ucas points attached, these qualifications are unlikely to be taken seriously. If the Government regards these courses as important then it should reach an agreement with Ucas, and the universities, to make them a requirement for



More and more, A levels are seen as a school-leaving exam preparing students for the world of employment

university entry. Surely key skills are critical? Whether people intend to be lawyers or work in retail or manufacturing, the ability to communicate, to understand numbers and to handle computers are certain to be increasingly important over the coming decades.

If the review of 16 to 19 education is to succeed, it must encompass the needs of all students seeking advanced study, whether academic or vocational. General national vocational qualifications (GNVQs) should be just as demanding for students preparing for further study or the world of work. The

challenge is not to segregate areas of study rigidly into "academic" or "vocational" but to encourage a mix of theoretical and practical skills in a range of subjects. Students are not so easily pushed into boxes of central government design, to which Dearing might have led us.

The emphasis on the students' "portfolio", the GNVQ's most positive aspect, motivates students of all abilities. This is one pointer to the way forward, as would be ensuring that A level and GNVQ modules can be interchangeable. Perhaps we should also ask whether the concept of key skills needs to be

extended. This nation is poor at languages. Maybe all 16 to 19-year-olds should study a foreign tongue?

A view of A levels as representing a gold standard — immutable, pure and unimprovable — is now being widely questioned by educationists and politicians alike. The quest for a widely valued new qualification occupies all of us charged with securing the best for our nation's future.

• Dr Ron McLone is convener-elect of the Joint Forum of the Examination Boards and head of UK exams policy, University of Cambridge Local Exams Syndicate.

Chris Ramsey is tired of doom and gloom

The pupils are up to scratch

It is the season for beating of breasts: A-level results have been published. Already, in *The Times* (August 1) Jim Brennan has written about falling standards, and his comments will doubtless be echoed in phone-ins and common rooms. Some of my own colleagues will echo last year's cynical witticism, "A-level results: not as good as I had feared".

Some of what such remarks imply is true, and there is plenty of anecdotal evidence to suggest plummeting standards: the inability of some A-level candidates to cope with old O-level papers; essay work which looks shoddy but seems to achieve high grades; papers which are shorter, but wordier, more visual, simpler in layout. Yet to condemn standards as "falling" is too glib. It can surely be no more true to say that pupils are stupider now than ten, or 20, or 50 years ago, than to say they are cleverer. They are different. They have blindspots their parents would have been ashamed of, and competencies their parents could not have aspired to.

As a recently appointed principal examiner in languages, I have heard the sighs of some of my predecessors. ("Good grief, can't these candidates even translate/scan/spell?") Who can resist mocking candidates who write that "Emma Bovary is a bit of a loser", or a character as "nice".

Is it true then, that today's sixth-formers cannot write? The complaint that grammar has gone to pot is understandable, but inaccurate. Melanie Phillips, whose *All Must Have Prizes* has convinced many of impending doom, talks of the "revolt against grammar".

But there is as much anecdotal evidence of good English as bad. One essay I marked this year concluded: "Candide is rooted in its time, but raises questions which are still central to us: it is a text about what it is to be a human being, and for this, if for no other reason, it has survived." This seems to me to be the model of clarity. Perhaps the proliferation of syllabuses and subjects simply means that talents are spread more thinly.

Some candidates structure, spell

and write badly; there are dreadful howlers. But is it fair (or constructive) to ridicule slips made under exam pressure? Most sixth-formers read and digest far more than ever they did in the golden past. This must be good. As for structuring of essays, the evidence is that this is improving, as exam boards publish more detailed reports, and teachers take more notice of them.

Last year a retiring teacher of French wrote of her depression that students could not cope with dictation or translation; such meaning is disingenuous. A-level linguists can do other (better?) things: the successful ones can listen to extended passages of French and make sense of them. They can respond in French. They can conduct conversations about current affairs. They have still read literature in most cases (though not perhaps so much), and they will have had to discuss it in the language of its author.

Saying they cannot deal with dictation or prose is like criticising T.S. Eliot for an inability to write sonnets, or Stravinsky for imperfect technique in the realm of comic opera.

What is true of French is true of mathematics, of history, of most subjects. Focuses have shifted, new demands are being made. A 1997 student of history makes deductions from documents; a mathematician is familiar with Chaos Theory. Other things — the things which were considered important in the past — are sacrificed.

So beware of those who say standards are falling, and especially those who pick the soft target of grammar. When all exams simply consisted of essay writing and translation, they were easy to crib, as any 19th-century school story shows. A friend of Robert Bridges told him: "In exams, people who do not wish to know ask questions of those who cannot tell." Too many "old-style" examinations could have been thus described.

It is not as Ms Phillips's title has it, that "all must have prizes", but more that a few must get more than something out of school.

• The author is head of modern languages at Wellington College, Berkshire.

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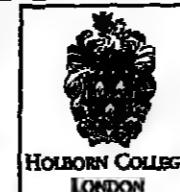
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RACING THREAT OF MUDDLING EARLY PACE UNDERMINES CONFIDENCE IN DECORATED HERO

Almushtarak to take Hungerford honours

By CHRIS McGRATH

THE least that Decorated Hero deserves is a medal. Every time John Gosden works his string on Newmarket Heath, Decorated Hero — with no regard for personal safety and showing courage beyond the call of duty — exposes himself to the artistry of *Ben The Dip*.

This very week, the Derby winner has again been arrogantly sparing with Decorated Hero as he limbers up for York. His uncomplaining work companion, then, could scarcely be less awed by group three opposition for the Grosvenor Casinos Hungerford Stakes (3.10) at Newbury, to

day, one of three races covered by BBC2.

But the hero turned villain on his latest start, when an odds-on favourite at Newcastle. That followed closely on the heels of success in a strongly-contested race over today's course and distance — too close, in the view of Gosden, who puts a dismissive line through the form: But his win here was set up by a searching gallop, and there is a disturbing lack of early pace in today's field.

Dazzle returned to the form of her 1,000 Guineas third in a modest listed event at Goodwood last time, always travelling sweetly and pounding late. But the sharp, track-

there showed her most flamboyant side, and it would be interesting to see if what she does off the bridle if held up off a pace that is suddenly quickened from the front.

So Almushtarak is suggested as an each-way alternative.

He has run with honour — and excuses — all season, hinting himself to be an improved performer. He did not have the best of runs from a poor draw in a big handicap at Sandown last time, and had shown himself to have useful tactical speed when tried over six furlongs at Ascot, who may improve for this step up trip.

Gosden has another obvious chance in the Bonussprint Handicap (2.40), with Song Of Freedom, backed as though he were Singespel himself — rather than his half-brother — when making his handicap debut at Ascot last time. Unfortunately, he is given plenty to do in a slowly-run race, which became too much

to do after he stumbled turning for home.

A proper test will be set this time by Premier Bay, but Song Of Freedom did not find much acceleration at Ascot, and there is again a value alternative in *Maria Dora*, who may improve for this step up trip.

Grosvenor Casinos also sponsors the Manton yard of Peter Chapman-Hyam. He unwraps a much discussed colt in its Washington Singer Stakes (5.10), but City Honours will have to be every bit as good as gossip suggests if he is to beat Jason Weaver's mounts. *Frolics* is a star in the making from Mark Johnston's in-form stable.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION



Weaver: promising ride

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4 (5) 1460 PRIVATE SEAL 17 (2f) 6 Gosden 5-8
5 (7) 1460 MISHRAAK 15 (2f) 6 Gosden 5-8
6 (3) 1460 CHOPIN 15 (2f) 6 Gosden 5-8
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180 (6) 1460 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 13 (2f) 6 Gosden 5-8
181 (7) 1460 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 13 (2f) 6 Gosden 5-8
182 (1) 1460 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 13 (2f) 6 Gosden 5-8
183 (2) 1460 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 13 (2

CRICKET

Relentless Donald flies home with five more wickets

BY SIMON WILDE

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire beat Sussex by 105 runs

ANOTHER highly professional day's cricket from Warwickshire saw them comfortably through to their fifth NatWest Trophy final in nine years yesterday. They squeezed Sussex until the pipes squeaked, the grip being most firmly applied by Allan Donald, who bowled fast and straight to take five of the eight wickets.

Warwickshire face dilem-

ma over selection and diplomacy between now and the final against Essex on September 6. Muntun, their official captain who has not played this year, is unlikely to be fit but Knight, the vice-captain, probably will be. He is planning to return to first-team cricket next week, seven weeks after breaking a finger.

Making room for Knight, who had a net on the outfield yesterday after the game had finished at 15.00pm, would probably entail dropping

Moles, who has made important runs in this and earlier rounds, and demoting Smith from the captaincy.

While Knight is manifestly still learning the skills of leadership, Smith has taken the team, with quiet efficiency, to ten wins in 11 one-day matches this season.

Smith is also, as far as this competition is concerned, the most experienced member of the team, being the only one to have played in the four previous finals dating back to 1989, when he hit the winning runs against Middlesex.

Yesterday he added to his 72 runs with the bat by bowling seven ruggedly overs for the wicket of Drakes, whose demise — clipping a catch to deep mid-on — signalled the end of Sussex's slender hopes.

With Sussex resuming at 43 for two, needing another 300 from 49 overs, Donald was clearly fired up from the moment he began the first over of the day and generated considerable pace.

He has an outstanding record in 60-overs cricket and has now taken 72 wickets at 13 apiece in 28 matches, including a record five five-wicket hauls.

He has played in only two finals, though, those of 1989 and 1995. He went home before the 1993 final and did not play county cricket in 1994.

Three of Sussex's four leading scorers had their stumps sent flying by Donald. In his third over, via an inside edge, Mark Newell and G.C. Small and A.A. Donald did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-100, 2-150, 3-292. BOWLING: Drakes 124-38-2; Javas 10-2-50; Robinson 12-1-34-2; K. Newell 10-0-62-1; Khan 8-0-69-0. Greenfield 8-0-54-0. SUSSEX K. Greenfield run out 1-113. Extras 10-0-111-1. Total 237. Extras 10-0-111-1. Total 237.

Donald may learn today what punishment the England and Wales Cricket Board will add to the £1,000 he was fined by Glamorgan yesterday. The good name of cricket demands that he and Mark Ilott must face some sanction. He is also likely to learn that he will be "rested" at the Oval.

Glamorgan have failed to win their past two games and have lost the leadership of the Britannia Assurance championship table to Kent.

Derbyshire welcome back

Dominic Cork, against Lancashire. At Portsmouth, Hampshire give a first-class debut to Lee Savident, 20, an all-rounder, who becomes the first Channel Islander to play championship cricket.

Tomorrow night, the selectors choose a squad for the final Ashes Test at the Oval.

Among the spectators at New Road today will be David Graveney, the England chairman of selectors, and David Lloyd, the England coach. Their presence is a mark of the progress that Glamorgan have made and, specifically, of how close the pragmatic, prolific batting of Steve James has brought him to a first Test cap.

Tomorrow night, the selectors choose a squad for the final Ashes Test at the Oval.



Donald is locked in an enthusiastic embrace by Piper after taking his final wicket

105 runs short of their target; they had simply allowed Warwickshire to score too many runs!

Donald also contributed to the run-out of Taylor in the eleventh over of the day. By then, the pressure for quick

runs had built up to such an extent that Mark Newell and Taylor were prepared to contemplate a single to Penney in the covers. Thinking better of it, Taylor was beaten home by the direct hit by half the length of the pitch.

Sussex were then 73 for four. Newell put on 49 with his elder brother, Keith, who was bowled trying to make room to drive Giles through the covers, and 25 with Drakes, but runs were coming in singles rather than the boundaries that were essential if a plausible challenge was to be mounted.

Mark Newell, in fact, hit only five fours from the 113 balls that he faced during his innings.

Darold, who also accounted for Jarvis and Khan, took the last four wickets of the innings in five overs and, it transpired, had good reason to work quickly. He had a plane to catch to South Africa and needed to be away by three o'clock. He is due to receive an award from Nelson Mandela this evening.

It was a homecoming of sorts for the Tasmanian batsman, whose grandmother, Jean, left Ulster 59 years ago at the age of 11. Before the start of play yesterday he met his two sisters, Betty and Mary, who

Young answers call to arms from Australia

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

EGERTON: Australians won toss; The Australians beat Ireland by 141 runs

still live in Belfast, and who became Australians for the day. Their great-nephew did not let them down, scoring that hundred and taking three wickets.

The early stages of the Australians' innings resembled a beer match. Slater went in the first over and when Mark Waugh was stumped, charging the left-arm spin of Greg Mollins, the touring party had gifted four more wickets and put only 116 on the board.

Ponting made repairs, striking six fours and 10 fours in his innings, and needing only 99 balls to do it.

The total was too daunting for the Ireland batsmen, Decker Curry, their powerful opener, fell in McGrath's third over and nobody could get a start. But this was essentially a day for making friends and the Australian players signed autographs for spectators who were clearly delighted to see them. The behaviour was a good deal more wholesome than it has been on many English grounds this summer.

AUSTRALIANS

M T G Elliott b Paterson b Cooley 28

M S Waugh c Cooley b Cooley 0

M E Waugh st Rutherford b Mollins 32

M G Evans c Molins b Healey 2

J Langer c Paterson b Curry 57

M G Evans c Molins b Healey 113

M A Taylor c Molins b Curry 9

10 S Barry not out 15

Saville (b w, b, n, b) 15

Total (7 wkt, 50 overs) 308

Inn 100 (2 wkt, 50 overs) 208

African masters reign supreme

David Powell, athletics correspondent, celebrates Kipketer and Gebrselassie

Oh to return 100 years from now and see what history made of *Weltklasse* 97. Three world records in one night, two by men of the same name, and one from a diminutive Ethiopian who will enter the next century along with Carl Lewis as the greatest athletes of their or any previous generations. Hailie Gebrselassie. Anybody arguing?

As a single performance, Wilson Kipketer's destruction of Sebastian Coe's world record in the 800 metres was the supreme moment in the Letzigrund stadium in Zurich on Wednesday evening, but Gebrselassie's run was no less numbing. What stark contrast these two Africans present in ambition, if not in the smooth, effortless action of their running.

Kipketer is content to live his sport in one street, to run the 800 metres and nothing else. Gebrselassie is more a travelling man, wandering up and down the distances, pitching his tent then moving on.

"I started in the 800, I will finish in the 800," Kipketer said, in answer to an inquiry

as to whether he might spread his talent over the 1,500 metres, as Coe did. Or how about the 400 metres, as Alberto Juantorena did? "No," was Kipketer's emphatic reply.

Gebrselassie has tried everything from 800 metres to the marathon, though we have yet to be given a good indication of what he may be capable of at either end of this range. At 800 metres, he has run in 1min 46sec, but only in training. At the marathon, he has recorded 2hr 52min, when he was 16, at high altitude. Gebrselassie will come back to that distance, eventually, to add to his world record by

However, from 1,500 metres to 10,000 metres, Gebrselassie has achieved so much that it is hard to know where to start the list. At two miles, 5,000 and 10,000 metres, he has not only set world records but repeated them. At the 10,000 metres, he has won one Olympic gold medal and three world championships. Before

entering the senior ranks, he did the double of 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres at the 1992 world junior championships.

Gebrselassie does not save himself just for the summer. He has illuminated dark winters with 3,000 metres and 5,000 metres indoor world records. He has even had the audacity to break 13 minutes indoors before any European had managed it outdoors. Last winter, he won the world indoor 3,000 metre championship and ran the 1,500 metres indoors faster than Noureddine Morceli had ever managed, though he was dominated by the world record by

Hicham El Guerrouj.

Gebrselassie's turn of speed allows him to stalk opponents. So frustrated was Joseph Machuka, from Kenya, with Gebrselassie's sit-and-kick tactics in the 10,000 metres at the world junior championships that, when the Ethiopian passed him close to the finish line, he assaulted him and was disqualified from the silver

medal. In the last fortnight, Gebrselassie has won the world 10,000 metres title in Athens and set his world record here on fast finishes.

Gebrselassie's time in the 5,000 metres in Zurich — 12min 41.86sec — is 26sec faster than the record that stood in 1981, the year in which Coe ran 800 metres in 1min 41.73sec, which would last until *Weltklasse* 97 as the oldest world record in a championship event. Kipketer ran 1min 41.24sec.

Kipketer, at 24, is the same age as Gebrselassie. While Gebrselassie spends much of his time living and training in Holland, he remains fully committed Ethiopian. Kipketer, though Kenyan born, now runs for Denmark. He married a Dane and gave up his chance to compete in the Atlanta Olympic Games. He decided that he would run for Denmark or nobody, so the Kenyan authorities blocked his participation. He has, however, built a house in rural Nandi and Kenyans will regard his world record to be at half theirs.

Politics did not interfere with the world championships in Athens and Kipketer retained his title. He did so a month after equaling Coe's mark in Stockholm and having broken the world indoor record twice in March.

Yet one Wilson Kipketer setting world records is not enough for this sport. Wilson Boit Kipketer — the Boit surfaced on start lists this season to avoid confusion — set the tone for the evening in Zurich on Wednesday with a steeplechase world record of 7min 59.08sec.

Gebrselassie dominates in any way he chooses



Gebrselassie dominates in any way he chooses

ROSS KENNARD / ALLSPORTS

GOLF

Webb leads as Open go-slow riles Johnson

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

KARRIE WEBB had a no return in the pro-am at Sunningdale on Wednesday, before the Wembury Women's British Open, but it was because of a superstition and no cause for alarm. Yesterday, in the first round of the championship proper, the 22-year-old Australian made the game look easy as she breezed to 65, seven under par.

Lieselotte Neumann, the com-

absolute misery watching shot after flipping shot in front of you; it just does your head in. It must drive the spectators mad — they only see about four shots an hour."

Webb, whose shot Johnson spent the day admiring from behind, admitted she scarcely noticed the pace of play, having started rather well. Four consecutive birdies from the second served to concentrate her mind wonderfully. Out in 31, five under par, the Queenslander also birdied the 11th and 12th as she threatened to blow the opposition away. Luckily for them, she grew a little tired towards the end and parred her way home.

Webb, who won the title at Woburn two years ago in her first season as a professional, is no longer a surprise packet and she made her playing partners look positively pedestrian, which was some feat, given that they were Nancy Lopez, who won on her last two visits here, in 1978 and



Laura Davies, of England, plays out of the bunker during a frustrating day

1979, and Alison Nicholas, the US Women's Open champion.

Lopez struggled to recover that magic touch and will have to improve somewhat on her 77 to make the cut today. She went out in 39, three over par, having saddled herself with double bogey fives at the fourth and eighth, missing the greens and taking three putts.

Nicholas, who had a 75, also suffered on the greens — perhaps the inevitable repayment for all those putts that she holed in the US Women's

Open at Pumpkin Ridge — and so did Laura Davies. Released from the confines of Woburn, the Open's home for seven years, Davies failed to prosper, returning a disappointing 74. She was level par for the four par-fives. The only one that she birdied was the 2nd and she dropped a shot at the 12th, where she drove into the rough, hacked out and eventually took three putts from the front edge.

"It's British Open week," Davies said morosely. She

won the Open at Royal Birkdale in 1986 but has scarcely challenged since. The good news is that the championship will be back at Birkdale in the year 2000, by which time the world No 3 might have sorted out her putting.

Penny Grice-Whitaker, the champion in 1991, withdrew after going out in 44. It was probably shock. She was sterilised earlier this year but found out on Wednesday that she was pregnant again.

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BOXING

Collins vetoes title challenger

STEVE COLLINS, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight champion, is refusing to meet Joe Calzaghe, of Wales, the No 1 challenger, and walked out of a press conference in London yesterday that had been called to announce the date and venue of the contest.

Collins left after handing out a statement that said he had returned from a family holiday to be told that he had to take on Calzaghe in Widnes on September 6.

Collins had understood that

between Juan Jimenez, of Paraguay, and Ray Close, of Northern Ireland, to decide who should be the leading challenger.

"Suddenly it appears that Calzaghe is No 1 in circumstances where neither Jimenez nor Close have engaged in any professional contests that might have improved their ratings," Collins said. "I've maintained the highest professional standards in boxing, providing my fans with world-title fights of the highest distinction.

Calzaghe, who is unbeaten in 20 contests, said: "I am surprised. But I don't think he wants to fight me. I know I can beat him. He's obviously worried about me."

However, a contest with Calzaghe, with no disrespect to the fighter, is a bridge too far. Collins said that he wanted to unify the super-middleweight championship by boxing Robin Reid, of Kircudbright, the World Boxing Council champion, and Frankie Liles, of the United States, who holds the World Boxing Association belt.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

BUNDES RAT

(a) A federal council. Specifically, the upper house of the German or Austrian parliament. Also the federal council of Switzerland. From the German *bund* (a confederacy) + *rat* (a council). The emperor has power, with consent of the *Bundesrat*, to declare war in name of the empire."

GONDOLA

(a) To travel in a gondola. Also, transitively, to propel a gondola. A back-formation from the romantic but expensive banana-shaped Venetian pleasure punt.

COLETA

(a) A pugil, worn by a bullfighter as a mark of his profession. The diminutive of the Spanish *cola* a tail, from the Latin *coda* or *cauda* a tail.

FURCAL

(c) Forked or forcate. Especially of or pertaining to a furca, or process in the thorax of many insects. From the Latin *furca* a fork.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Rxf7! Qxf7 (1 ... Qxg5 2 Qxg5 and the mate threat on g7 means White will keep his extra piece) 2 Bxb5 gxf6 3 Qh6 and mates.

WEEKEND PICNIC?

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TELEVISION CHOICE

Dancing through the years

Summer Dance: The Wreckers' Ball BBC2, 7.30pm



Emberant dancing (BBC2, 7.30pm)

Some detect a dark side to the work of the American choreographer Paul Taylor, even in pieces as seemingly sunny as the trilogy presented here. Each is danced to the popular music of a decade and it would be hard to find anything more upbeat than the Andrews Sisters, whose joyous close harmony numbers have been chosen to represent the 1940s. The dancing is suitably ebullient, as it is during one period piece, *London, Dogs Don't Wear Coats* (1950). Only when we get to the 1960s with the wistful songs of Harry Nilsson, does a possibly sharper edge emerge, but this glistening fusion of lighting, costumes, song and dance, adds up to one of the most accessible programmes of the *Summer Dance* season.

Rooms 101: BBC2, 10.00pm

It is Terry Wogan's turn to make public his pet hate and his normal gaiety acquires an unaccustomed edge. He reserves particular venom for *Have I Got News For You*. It reminds him of *Rooms 101* in its way, but with more happenings. The closest to the *Rooms* template is *Rooms 101* (1965). Only when we get to the 1960s with the wistful songs of Harry Nilsson, does a possibly sharper edge emerge, but this glistening fusion of lighting, costumes, song and dance, adds up to one of the most accessible programmes of the *Summer Dance* season.

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RADIO CHOICE

Lord of the Forest

Radio 4, 11.30am

Here, if ever there was one, is a jumbo-sized edition of *The Natural History Programme*. It was put together at the BBC's studio in Bristol. Where else? No other natural history unit in the country — probably in the world — turns out such a vast amount of high-quality programmes for radio and TV. In India, the lord of the forest is the elephant, as distinct from the lion which is king of every jungle. Joanna Plowman's report from India defines the central role the elephant plays in the country's cultural and religious life. She timed her visit very well. It coincided with what is considered to be the most spectacular festival involving elephants — the temple festival of Poomaram at Trichur in Kerala state.

Fraser: Mixed Doubles

Channel 4, 10.00pm

A show that has run as long as this one associates a stock of largely stepmotherly stories which from time to time can be made explicit. One such is the secret love which the twitish Miles (David Hyde Pierce) has nursed for housekeeper Daphne (Jane Leeves). When Daphne is dumped

Kaleidoscope: Special: Mr Baskhar Goes to Bollywood

Radio 4, 9.30pm

Cross Baboon with Hollywood and you get Bollywood, a ridiculous hybrid of a word. Ridiculous and illogical. The American and Indian film industries are continents apart in just about every vital aspect. India makes 1,000 films a year of which 70 per cent to 80 per cent flop. Producers have to take account of 15,000 different dialects. One actor interviewed in this *Kaleidoscope* Special once made 52 films at the same time; 80 per cent of them had the same story. On-screen kissing is not allowed. Instead, there's an all-singing, all-dancing interface. Organized crime pays cash for studio censors. Doesn't sound much like Hollywood to me.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Padilla 8.00 Mark Cooder 11.20 Radio 1 Roadshow. Live from Torquay 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Jo Whiley 3.00 Kevin Greening 5.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Pete Tong 10.00 India Five-O 12.00 Radio 1 Rep Show 3.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.00 Sarah Kennedy 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jeremy Dunn 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 Proms 9.30 10.00 Business 10.30 The Ginge 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Antiques Roadshow 12.00 Radio 2 1.30pm Charlie Jordan 2.30 Radio 2 3.30 Matchstick 4.00 Football 4.30 Code Breakers 4.30 News 4.30 Germany 5.00 Europe 5.30 BBC 6.00 Business 6.30 BBC News 6.30 World Athletics Championships 6.30 Europe 7.15 World Cup 7.30pm Encounters: Contemporary Life in an English Cathedral 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Music Review 9.00 News in German 9.30 Proms 9.30 10.00 Business 10.30 The Ginge 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Antiques Roadshow 12.00 Radio 2 1.30pm Charlie Jordan 2.30 Radio 2 3.30 Matchstick 4.00 Football 4.30 Code Breakers 4.30 News 4.30 Germany 5.00 Europe 5.30 BBC 6.00 Business 6.30 Europe 7.15 World Cup 7.30pm Encounters: Contemporary Life in an English Cathedral 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Music Review 9.00 News in German 9.30 Proms 9.30 10.00 Business 10.30 The Ginge 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Antiques Roadshow 12.00 Radio 2 1.30pm Charlie Jordan 2.30 Radio 2 3.30 Matchstick 4.00 Football 4.30 Code Breakers 4.30 News 4.30 Germany 5.00 Europe 5.30 BBC 6.00 Business 6.30 Europe 7.15 World Cup 7.30pm Encounters: Contemporary Life in an English Cathedral 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Music Review 9.00 News in German 9.30 Proms 9.30 10.00 Business 10.30 The Ginge 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Antiques Roadshow 12.00 Radio 2 1.30pm Charlie Jordan 2.30 Radio 2 3.30 Matchstick 4.00 Football 4.30 Code Breakers 4.30 News 4.30 Germany 5.00 Europe 5.30 BBC 6.00 Business 6.30 Europe 7.15 World Cup 7.30pm Encounters: Contemporary Life in an English

Of the Andes, airports and arboreal ardour

This time last week I was wondering what we would all find to watch after the end of *This Life*. Little did I know that it would involve a bunch of llamas trotting up and down the Andes and me staying up very late to listen to people talk about tree-hugging. Somebody should have warned me.

We began, at least, on familiar enough territory with *Arrested* (BBC1), which you may recall is the series we disagree on. You all like it (the series has been attracting audiences of more than ten million) and I don't. Or not much – if pushed, I will 'own' it to a grudging admiration for Steve and Russell, the resident press corps, who earn their living by walking backwards through *Arrivals*, trying to coax a smile and a coherent sentence out of jet-lagged filmstars. It's a tough job – and I'm very glad that it's they who do it and not I.

Another positive thing about last night's concluding instalment was that, at least, there were no parking crises in it. I have only a faint appetite for watching other people's parking problems on television and *Driving School* pretty much did it. Another electrical fire in short stay? I just didn't want to know.

I have speculated about the origins of my peculiar indifference to the series. Does it disguise a deep-seated fear of flying? Or a morbid terror of departure lounge catering? Or is it just an allergic reaction to the sort of cheap programming which, out of the kindness of its heart, sets out to make stars of us all? Or, at least out of people such as Garth, who spent last night sipping cannabis out of Caribbean bongos or Anita, who as manager of the royal suite, marked the end of her tour of personal celebrity by being over-familiar with everybody from the

Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, to the Prince of Wales.

Mind you, I did enjoy her being over-familiar with Bob Ayling, the chief executive of British Airways, whose continuing problems with recalcitrant cabin crew means he now has to do the meet and greet stuff himself. Sadly, the cameras did not catch him in action ("Can I see your boarding card, your Royal Highness?" or "left aisle please, Mr Cook") but they were there to capture his embarrassment after the doors on the Hong Kong-bound jumbo closed with him still on board. Shame – but he'd have been brilliant at the

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

photogenic walk. Should be good for a slow-moving half-an-hour.

Loaded with ingeniously freeze-dried potatoes and rock salt (but not, alas, a deep-fat fryer) the llamas made the 7,000-ft descent into the valley, where their owner, Florencio, swapped the potatoes and salt for maize and brought them all back again. The llamas, being slower but better tempered than their camel-like ancestors, endured this with considerable good grace. On the other hand (hoo!), they might just have been worrying about the *inka*.

Tinku, you see, can be fatal for human being and llama alike. For humans the ostensible purpose is to dress up, drink and dance but you know how it is. You have a bucket-load of *chicha* and suddenly it seems to be the best idea in the Andes to be bartering your neighbour over the head with his own pan-pipes. As for the llamas, they know they're in trouble the minute

somebody starts playing nice music to them. It's supposed to take their mind off what happens next, I mean next. Somebody gives them a lovely woolly blanket ("Ooh, a lovely woolly blanket") and then... it's straight off to llama heaven.

For those with the stamina to stay up for it, *For the Love of...* (Channel 4) turned out to be an odd but strangely enjoyable programme. For this opening night the subject was trees, which explained why I was watching (big tree, me) why an ivy-screwing studio was filled with those similarly inclined, but not why the show was hosted by Jon Ronson, who doesn't really strike you as an outdoors type.

Does he strike you as the late-night, studio discussion show type, but that's rather the point. Slumped in an over-large leather armchair, looking frail and sound-

BBC1

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (44221)

7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (7) (56973)

9.00 *Breakfast News Extra* (7) (5251912)

9.20 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (7) (5222202)

9.50 *Esther Guests* explain how it feels to have their lives invaded by the paparazzi (7) (5135829)

10.20 *Put It to the Test* (515560)

10.45 *Cartier's Caribbean*: Robert Carter prepares cream of crab, soup and brochettes on Barbados (7) (2167554)

11.00 *News* (7) and weather (2338405)

11.05 *Die South*: An habitual liar comes to Fraser and Vecchio with claims that his fiancée has been abducted by aliens (7) (2737216)

11.50 *Good Neighbours* (5797979)

12.00 *News* (7) and weather (5035405)

12.05pm *Wipeout* (7) (5782009)

12.35 *Neighbours* (7) (104979)

1.00 *News* (7) and weather (26738)

1.30 *Regional News* (5950516)

1.45 *Columbo*: Any Old Port in a Storm? A suave vintner, owner's financial well-being is jeopardised by his playboy brother. With Peter Falk and Donald Peaslee (7) (4622680)

3.10 *Gulliver*: The coroner's fossier, son, becomes infected with bubonic plague (7) (198826)

4.00 *Poppy* (2052828): 4.10 *To Me, to You* (5978755): 4.45 *It's Never Work* (5787284): 5.00 *Newport*. How youngsters in India are celebrating the anniversary of independence (1) (2665829): 5.10 *Ricard Brasiers*: Cliff Richard makes a dream come true (7) (5167328)

5.35 *Neighbours* (7) (468467)

6.00 *News* (7) and weather (202)

6.30 *Regional News* (554)

7.00 *Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook*: player John Parrott and *Neighbours* star Emma Barton take part in the cookery challenge show (7) (14867)

7.30 *Top of the Pops* (7) (738)

8.00 *Only Fools and Horses*: Del becomes a snowball entrepreneur after discovering a Tom Jones-style singer at a club. Starring David Jason, Nicholas Lyndhurst and Teesside Jones (7) (311863)

8.50 *Get Fit with British Gordon*: Gordon tries a few new sports and Krisi Akubuiro explains his passion for tennis (7) (148522)

9.00 *News* (7) and weather (2233)

9.30 *Snakes* (1922): Thriller set in the world of computer hacking, with Robert Redford, Sidney Poitier and Dan Aykroyd. Directed by Phil Alden Robinson (59467)

11.30 *Murder for Murder* (1987) with Tess Williams, Alfred Howard and Rebecca Jenkins: Fact-based thriller about a smooth-talking murderer who seduces, weds and then kills women to collect on the insurance. Directed by Yves Simoneau (7) (515370)

1.05am *Midnight, Fear* (1991) with August West and David Carradine: A teenage girl finds her idyllic vacation home at a country farm turns into a nightmare. Directed by Bill Cain (5022500)

2.30 *Weather* (722500)

BBC2

6.00am *Open University: Autism* (519019)

6.25 *A Europe of the Regions* (7) (313825)

7.15 *See, Hear, Broadcast, News* (7) (314467)

7.30 *Teletubbies* (7) (4474221): 7.55 *Charlie, Charlie* (6) (1575009): 8.10 *Recovery* (7) (5635322): 8.25 *Cartoon Cutters* (7) (5635322): 8.35 *Spider-Man* (7) (709818): 8.45 *Sport*: *Rider* (6) (6116554): 10.00 *Sunrise Adventures* (7) (7182418): 10.25 *Teletubbies* (7) (338195)

11.15 *Grand Expectations* (1946) starring John Mills, Alec Guinness and Valerie Hobson. Oscar-winning adaptation of the Dickens novel. Directed by David Lean (7) (4827712)

1.10pm *For the Love of It* (7) (5139709): 1.15 *Glyn Christian* (7) (10670221): 1.40 *Bio-bi* (5889950): 2.05 *The Session* (7) (59733405)

2.25 *Reaching from Newbury*: Coverage of the 2.40, 3.10 and the 3.40 races (5848370)

2.35 *News* (7) and weather (7006841)

4.00 *International Women's Golf*: The British Open Action from the second round at Sunningdale (33399).

5.30 *Going, Going, Gone* with Diana Moran (551)

6.00 *The Steaming Hills* (1958) with Tab Hunter, Nedra Wood and Earl Holliman. Western adventure about a tamer in conflict with a cattle baron. Stuart Heisler directs (7) (6931)

7.30 *Summer Dances*: Wrecker's Ball. Choreographer Paul Taylor's vision of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, an amalgamation of three of his most popular works: *Company*, *Billy, Funny, Papers* and *A Field of Grass*, set to music from the Andrews Sisters to Harry Nilsson (22000)

8.30 *Gardeners*: World Freesia cuttings for winter colour; a Cornish late-summer garden; and the results of a practical gardening trial conducted earlier in the year (7) (7283)

8.00 *Bottom*: Richie and Eddie attempt to get rich (7) (31282)

8.30 *Ruth C. Neesbitt*: The slovenly Scot is suddenly taken ill (7) (57841)

BBC3

6.00am *GMTV* (7612047): 9.25 *Win, Lose or Draw* (7) (5226641): 9.35 *Judge Judy* (7) (3194467)

10.20 *News* (7) (5988115)

10.35 *Regional News* (7) (6982486)

10.30 and the *See the Will* Tell First of a two-part drama based on a true story about a mysterious murder on remote island. Concludes tomorrow (7) (5195586)

12.20pm *Regional News* (7) (4505689)

12.30 *News* (7) and weather (1080776)

12.55 *Designed by Emanuel* (7) (1053467)

1.25 *Home and Away* (7) (1403028)

1.50 *Hart to Hart: Old Friends* (1994) Crime caper with Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers. While at a party Jennifer overhears a plot to kill Jonathan (1509028)

3.18 *HTV CrimeStoppers* (2482950)

3.20 *News* (7) (4598863)

3.25 *Regional News* (7) (2488134)

3.30 *Rosie and Jim* (7) (8417937): 3.40 *Paddington Bear* (5584467): 3.50 *Zzzap!* (7) (513979): 4.00 *Vidya* (7) (2482079)

4.15 *10-20 Right or Wrong?* (5905979)

5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (251160)

6.25 *Central News* (769405)

10.40 *Film: Shadow of a Doubt* (9220912)

3.10am *The LADS* (40371516)

3.40 *Baywatch* (5980561)

As HTV West except:

10.30 *Surprise Chefs* (88047)

11.00 *Side Effects* (184028)

11.30 *Dogs with Dumbies* (9857860)

12.55pm-1.25 *A Country Practice* (1054587)

1.50 *Murder, She Wrote* (903554)

2.50-3.20 *Right or Wrong?* (5905979)

5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (251160)

6.25 *Central News* (769405)

10.40 *Film: Shadow of a Doubt* (9220912)

3.10am *The LADS* (40371516)

3.40 *Baywatch* (5980561)

WEST COUNTRY

As HTV West except:

10.30 *Healthy by Nature* (88047)

11.00 *Side Effects* (184028)

11.30 *Dogs with Dumbies* (9857860)

12.55pm-1.25 *A Country Practice* (1054587)

1.50 *Murder, She Wrote* (903554)

2.50-3.20 *Right or Wrong?* (5905979)

5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (251160)

6.25 *Central News* (769405)

10.45 *Film: Notorious* (1851975)

CHANNEL 4

As HTV West except:

10.30pm *Cartoon Time* (217315): 10.40 *David the Gnome* (3680134)

11.05 *Cartoon Time* (4559134): 11.25 *BraveStar* (453554): 11.50 *Dinosaurs* (9857860): 12.55pm-1.25 *Shortland Street* (251160): 1.50 *Surprise Chefs* (9887391): 2.20 *Put It to the Test* (2184931): 2.50-3.20 *Doing It Up* (590979): 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (251160): 5.00 *Meridian Tonight* (12950): 7.00-7.30 *The Vet* (6554): 10.20 *Meridian News* (104467): 10.45 *Magic and Mystery Show* (150405): 11.15 *Weekly World News* (157318): 11.45 *Wings* (420047)

As HTV West except: 10.30pm Cartoon Time (217315): 10.40 *David the Gnome* (3680134)

11.05 *Cartoon Time* (4559134): 11.25 *BraveStar* (453554): 11.50 *Dinosaurs* (9857860): 12.55pm-1.25 *A Country Practice* (1054587): 1.50 *Murder, She Wrote* (903554)

2.50-3.20 *Countryfile* (590979): 5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (251160): 5.20 *Anglia News* (769405): 7.00-7.30 *Up Short* (5554): 10.30 *Anglia News Extra* (57776): 11.00 *The Warehouse* (203863)

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EQUESTRIANISM 37

Armstrong gains compensation in Derby Tankard

SPORT

FRIDAY AUGUST 15 1997

Liverpool ponder Spanish offer

Barcelona bid £12m for McManaman

BY DAVID MADDOCK

BARCELONA have renewed their interest in Steve McManaman. The England midfield player is thought to be the subject of a fresh inquiry from the Spanish club, who are believed to have added £2 million to the offer of £10 million that they made for the player two seasons ago.

Bob Robson, the director of football at Barcelona, watched McManaman play for Liverpool at Wimbledon on Saturday and then followed up his interest with a visit to Anfield on Wednesday evening to see the player in action in the 2-1 defeat by Leicester City.

Robson has a specific role in targeting talent for recruitment by the Catalan club and he has recommended that Barcelona renew the bid that they made before the 1996 European championship.

Liverpool played down the suggestion of an approach from Robson last night and are likely to respond to any move just as they did two seasons ago, when they rejected the bid without informing the player. However, Barcelona will respond with more persistence this time. They recognise that the player has less than two years on his contract and has so far failed to agree an extension to his contract. They are hoping that Liverpool will begin to fear that they could lose the player without receiving a fee, under the Bosman ruling, when his contract expires.

McManaman has captured the imagination of the power-



McManaman: talented

Camp stadium. Now Robson has made it clear that McManaman is a perfect target and is hoping that Louis van Gaal, the new Barcelona coach, will act on his recommendation.

The player was at home in Liverpool yesterday, where he was waiting for confirmation of an official approach from the Spanish club. It is unlikely that he would reject out of hand the opportunity to move.

Logo battle brewing

BASS, sponsor of the FA Carling Premiership, looks likely to lose its shirt logo battle after opposition from leading clubs, including Liverpool and Newcastle United.

Bass, which has a £36 million deal over four years with the Premiership, wanted to replace the Premier League badges on players' shirts with

a badge bearing its Carling Black Label lager motif.

However, Liverpool and Newcastle yesterday insisted that they would only wear the logos of their main shirt sponsors — Carlsberg and Newcastle Brown Ale respectively. Under the terms of its new Premiership deal, Bass has been offered greater exposure.

McManaman has captured the imagination of the power-

should Liverpool sanction it, without first speaking to Barcelona. If a deal should eventually be agreed, it would make him Britain's most expensive export, surpassing the £7 million that Internazionale paid to Manchester United to secure the services of Paul Ince.

There is, however, some way to go and much talking to be done before Liverpool supporters should begin to fear the worst. They have idolised McManaman ever since he made his full debut as a precocious 18-year-old, three years after he joined the club under the noses of Everton, the team he supported as a boy. Now 25, he has matured into a full England international, who won rave reviews from, among others, Pelé during Euro 96.

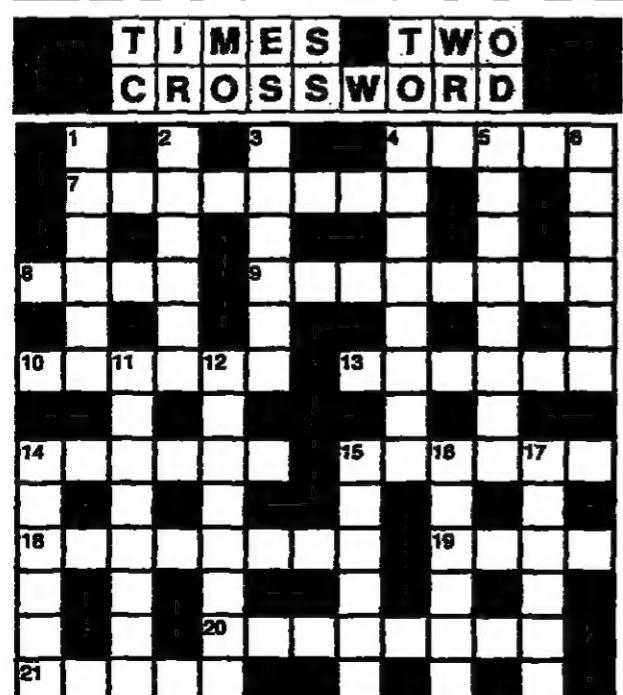
While Liverpool considered the approach from Barcelona, they were also involved yesterday in talks with Massimo Paganini, the Internazionale defender. The centre half travelled to England yesterday to continue negotiations with Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, and an agreement is likely to be reached in time to register the player for Liverpool's first involvement in the Uefa Cup next month.

Evans confirmed last night that he is keen to sign the Italian to strengthen a defence depleted by injury to Bjorn Tore Kvarne and Neil Ruddock. He indicated that Liverpool would complete the £3 million transfer initiated by Paul Ince. Paganini's former team-mate at Inter, Ince, was aware of the defender's interest in a move to England and recommended him to Evans.

Liverpool were initially discouraged by the player's wage demands, but a poor defensive display against Leicester on Wednesday prompted a rethink and Evans conceded the need to move swiftly to strengthen his squad before the European deadline.

Paganini will already be popular with Liverpool supporters, even before he has kicked a ball for the Merseyside club. He was involved in an incident in a pre-season friendly with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the Manchester United forward, that resulted in a prolonged injury absence for the Norwegian.

Derby red-faced, page 57



No 1173

ACROSS

- 4 Eg La Fontaine story (5)
- 7 Sort rubbish for use (8)
- 8 Thud: one read by phenologist (4)
- 9 Mil. group to organise forcibly (8)
- 10 Ostentatiously friendly: filling (meal) (6)
- 13 Henry — author, Glenn — bookleader (6)
- 14 Keep possession (6)
- 15 Jamaican music style (6)
- 18 Shootout (8)
- 19 Welcome discovery (4)
- 20 Abusive letters (4)
- 21 Romantic meeting (5)

DOWN

- 1 Take for granted (6)
- 2 Interfere (with) (6)
- 3 Falsely give over: show uninterestingly (6)
- 4 Womanly (6)
- 5 EU clean beach award (4,4)
- 6 Resurrection festival (6)
- 7 Self-determination (3)
- 11 Dusk (8)
- 14 Seasonal mew (6)
- 15 Decaying (6)
- 16 Crude laugh (6)
- 17 Matthew — Dover Beach poet (6)

The solution to 1173 will be published Wednesday, August 20

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